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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid To Call Arab League Summit in Jan

NC1911091591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Doha, 19 Nov (MENA)—The Qatari paper AL-SHARQ reports today that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will tour a number of Arab states in December to invite them to an Arab summit in Rabat in January to clear the atmosphere and reconcile the Arab League states.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY cites the paper as saying that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will discuss with Arab leaders ways to vitalize the Arab League role in light of international developments and put into effect the economic agreements on setting up a common Arab market.

AMU Industrial Body Minutes Signed

LD1811200391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Misratah, 18 Nov (JANA/Arab Maghreb Union Pool)—The minutes of the third meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] ministerial council in charge of industry were signed yesterday at the People's Hall in Misratah. This will strengthen the brotherly ties and the firmly established relations among the AMU member-countries, and help the realization of industrial integration.

The minutes were signed by the (Libyan) secretary of the People's General Committee for Light Industry; Boullah Ould Mogueya, the Mauritanian minister of mines and industry; Lakhdar Bayou, the Algerian minister delegate for small and medium industries; and Mongi Safra, the Tunisian secretary of state to the minister of national economy. They included an assessment of the work of the ministerial council and sectorial committees, preparations for their action plan, proposals to the economic and finance committee, and provisions for the appropriate economic climate. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Hails Moscow-Afghan Mojahedin Talks

LD1811220291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1918 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 18 November, SPA—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has expressed satisfaction at the positive outcome of the talks between the Government of the Soviet Union and a delegation of the Afghan mojahedin, which recently visited Moscow.

ICO secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, said in a statement issued today: "The ICO, which always firmly stood by the side of justice and the legitimacy of the Afghan people's cause, is still very preoccupied with finding a comprehensive political solution to the Afghan problem. In this context, the ICO coordinated its efforts with those of the United Nations."

Dr. al-Gabid made it clear that the efforts to achieve an honorable political settlement in Afghanistan have reached a critical stage, because the decisions recently reached by the Soviet Union, in addition to those contained in the U.S.-Soviet joint statement of 13 September, give new impetus to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement in line with the 21 May initiative of the UN secretary general.

The ICO secretary general emphasized that the organization is ready to play an effective role with the United Nations in facilitating the transfer of authority in Afghanistan and guaranteeing the credibility and soundness of the transfer process. He pointed out that within the context of the efforts being exerted by the organization, a delegation led by the assistant secretary general for political affairs is currently visiting Pakistan to hold wide-ranging talks with the provisional Afghan government.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni, Others Hold Amman Consultations

Discuss Peace Talks

JN1811082691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 28

[By Fathi Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—A Palestinian delegation grouping three members of the PLO Executive Committee, will arrive in Amman today, Monday, in another step aimed at deepening contacts and consultations between Jordan and the PLO.

The Palestinian delegation, which includes Mahmud 'Abbas (alias Abu-Mazin), Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and Sulayman al-Najjab, will hold Palestinian consultations aimed at drawing up a negotiating plan that was described, by al-Najjab and 'Abd-Rabbuh in a statement to AL-RA'Y, as basically derived from the need to work for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and securing Israel's withdrawal.

The two PLO Executive Committee members added that the recent Executive Committee meetings, which continued for three days and concluded at dawn yesterday, Sunday, concentrated on studying the plan for the upcoming negotiations of the second stage of the peace conference. Emphasis was on giving utmost priority, when agreeing on the agenda, to halting the Israeli settlements and implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention.

On his part, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh disclosed that at the start of negotiations, the Palestinian delegation would demand defining a concept for Resolution 242 in which emphasis would be on the need for withdrawal and

resolving the problem of refugees within the framework of the mentioned resolution.

Al-Najjab stressed that the Executive Committee has reached a decision concerning the interim period which should be clearly linked with the objective of withdrawal, on the one hand, and be open for the objective of realizing national independence, on the other. He said that the Palestinian position would be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the letter of assurances attached to the invitation to the peace conference, held in Madrid, extended by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Al-Najjab said that during the second stage of negotiations a comprehensive agreement should be reached, especially since the Israeli side aims to lead the negotiations to what is called self-rule and then stop there, without realization of withdrawal or self-determination for the Palestinian people. He emphasized that discussions should seriously concentrate on shifting authority to the Palestinians through a transitional government.

Sulayman al-Najjab said: So far, the Americans are satisfied with playing the role of mediator, not the arbitrator. Therefore, the conference's authority will be the resolutions of international legitimacy.

He urged the U.S. administration to extend the same facilities that were available in Madrid, saying this would eliminate a major obstacle to the holding of the second stage in the negotiations of the peace conference.

Answering a question on reports about changes in the Palestinian delegation to the conference, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We may introduce some changes, which is a principle that we approved, based on the negotiation requirements. Therefore, these changes will be slight.

Speak at 17 Nov Rally

JN1911115191

[Editorial report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 2120 GMT on 18 November carries a 60-minute recording of a rally held in Amman on 17 November during which Faysal al-Husayni and four other Palestinian delegates to the Madrid peace conference answer questions put to them by the audience. The four delegates are Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Samir 'Abdallah, Sami al-Kilani, and Mamduh al-'Akir. The referent JORDAN TIMES report covers highlights of the discussions. There is nothing to confirm that the 60-minute recording covers the entire rally. Jordanian papers on 18 November indicate that al- Husayni addressed the rally before questions and answers began.

Responding to accusations by a member of the audience that the Palestinian and Arab delegations to the peace conference are "conceding" major bargaining chips even before they reach the conference, delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat says: "Can we confront those who ask: Why did you go to Madrid? Can we tell them that the Palestinian universities under this siege are threatened with closure? Can we tell them that the Palestinian land is threatened with Judaization, especially the agricultural land?" He adds: "My answer is that I have devoted my life, and my people have devoted theirs, to struggling and preserving the Arabism of the land and its people."

In answer to the same question, delegate Mamduh al-'Akir argues that the reception accorded the Palestinian delegation upon its return is a "kind of referendum," endorsing the decision to go to Madrid.

For his part, delegate Samir 'Abdallah blames lack of Arab coordination. He says: "Had there been Arab coordination earlier, we would have gone to the Madrid conference under much better conditions than those we went under." He adds: "At the Damascus conference, we were able to obtain guarantees, which we hope will be genuine, in order to abort any possibility of a partial solution. This is very important to us, the Palestinians."

Answering a question on the fate of the Palestinian land that was occupied in 1948, al-Husayni says: "We are endeavoring to realize what can be realized at this stage but the historical rights are for the future generations to realize. The coming generations will come up with something better. By the way, perhaps all international rules have changed, something which could provide a solution that would not only satisfy the Palestinian people but also the other side within a new world order that would return the rights to their owners and give the others room to co-exist with us." He adds: "There is also Resolution 194, which is being invoked, a resolution calling for return or compensation."

Al-Husayni says: "We can definitely say that this is our land, our possession. We may not return to it, but we want to exploit it, use it, to have projects there. Under peace circumstances, can't I establish projects on this land? Subsequently, using this land, establishing projects there could be the beginning of a return which could be realized in full at a later stage. Historical rights are the possession of future generations. Nobody can concede them, either in our case or for any other people on this earth."

In answer to the question: "Are you a nationalistic Palestinian delegation drawn according to nationalist specifications or are you a delegation with Jewish, world Zionist, and Masonic specifications?", al-Husayni says: "I believe that I don't have to give you the answer now. The answer was given when we arrived in Jericho; [applause] the answer was in Gaza, [applause] when it took our respected elder, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, three and a half hours to reach his home. The answer is here."

On why the Palestinians did not publish the U.S. letter of assurances, al-Husayni says: "The letter of assurances has been published unofficially. We are not prepared to publish it officially. We cannot do this unless the memorandum of assurances to Israel is officially published. If we publish ours officially and Israel does not, this means the United States and Israel could easily change it. Therefore, we will keep our letter and will not publish it

unless the other letter is officially published. We deal with the United States while knowing that it has interests. We deal within the context of these interests, and we do not say that we have placed ourselves in its hands or that we have confidence in it or in anyone else."

In conclusion, delegate 'Urayqat assures the audience that there can be no compromise over the intifadah and that "nothing will force us to undertake anything that encroaches on our nation's honor, sacrifices, and achievements."

PLO's Sha'th on 2d Round of Talks, U.S. Ties

JN1811084391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Nov 91 pp 1, 23

[Text] The latest reports received yesterday indicate that the date and venue of bilateral negotiations will be officially announced after the meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, scheduled for Friday [22 November] in Washington.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has said that Washington will not announce the date and venue of the forthcoming bilateral negotiations prior to the Bush- Shamir meeting, while Yosi Ahime'ir, an aide to Shamir, said that an official decision on the bilateral negotiations might be reached when Shamir meets with Bush on 22 November.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. Sha'th said that the Americans will not announce the date and venue of the second round of bilateral negotiations except after Shamir's visit to the United States and his meeting with President Bush, not earlier than 23 November.

Dr. Sh'ath said he expects the second round of negotiations to be held at the end of November or early December. This round of talks will most likely be held in Washington or in a nearby place. He added that there is still room for surprises due to various U.S. considerations, including security.

Dr. Sha'th added that if the conference is held in the United States, then Washington should take all necessary measures, at least measures similar to what was afforded to the Palestinians and the PLO during the Madrid conference.

He added: "I think it is time for the United States to normalize relations with the PLO in a broader fashion." Dr. Sha'th said: We reject self-rule in accordance with the Israeli conception. We are not going to negotiate a self-rule that includes people and excludes territory and water.

He added: We will strongly demand our rights. Our demands are just and recognized. Our demands are also recognized by the U.S. letter of assurances offered to us, as well as Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr. Sha'th asserted that the second round of talks is important. He added: We have paved the way for this round by means of the working paper the Palestinian delegation submitted on the second day of the Madrid negotiations, which came as a surprise to Israeli negotiators.

He added that the Palestinian working paper stresses the need for the return of deportees, releasing Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, halting settlement activity, the right to self-determination, the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation in accordance with Resolution 194, the right to statehood in accordance with Resolution 181, and the need for full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Furthermore, Dr. Sha'th said: Any transitional phase is deemed unacceptable unless it carries within it the seeds and signs of full independence, which we shall choose freely so as to set up a confederation with Jordan.

He added: We cannot possibly talk about exchanging land for peace while this land is being swallowed up, settled, and violated. These practice would result in losing the very rights we are discussing.

Dr. Sha'th said: We represent the historical right of our people, international legitimacy, and a 70-year-old struggle; the negotiations will not simply make us forget this. Even though talks have begun, we will not confine our struggle to negotiations; we will wage a fierce struggle outside the arena of negotiations, just like what happened in Vietnam and elsewhere.

The struggle in the arena of the intifadah will continue alongside our political struggle. The intifadah will end only with the end of the Israeli occupation.

Concluding, Dr. Sha'th said: We will not bargain over the intifadah. It embodies our right to struggle against occupation. The intifadah cannot be terminated, even if Israeli occupiers give up part of their suppression, which runs counter to humanitarian international law.

U.S.-PLO Dialogue Would Show 'Clear Good Will'

LD1811214991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has not yet replied to the official Palestinian statements on the need to resume the dialogue with the PLO should Washington be agreed on as a suitable venue for the second round of bilateral talks. In fact, this dialogue has to be resumed in advance so as to ensure that Washington will be a suitable place for our negotiating delegation. It is unreasonable to think of there being no harmonious agreement on this before agreeing an immediate resumption of the dialogue. This would be aimed at achieving equality between our side and the rest of the negotiating sides, and at the same time

at establishing basic clear good will by the United States within this important political context in order to consecrate the will to make the peace process succeed in all its rounds and sessions, and in order to emphasize the removal of all obstacles.

In addition to this, it is important to refer to the fact that the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, after their being severed for a long time, within the context imposed by the atmosphere of the serious movement toward a peaceful political settlement in the region, means, in exchange, and in a way, tantamount to just, spontaneous reciprocation, the inevitability of the resumption of the American-Palestinian dialogue, and providing this dialogue with all the means to develop and take its suitable place as an original and principal part in the concerned equation.

We have emphasized our preliminary acceptance of Washington as a venue for the negotiations. We have made it conditional on a logical right for us, which is linked with our equality in the peace talks. In this issue we will not anticipate stances or events. We hope that the American decision will be positive and constructive in order to establish all the good will in the course of the just and comprehensive peace process.

U.S. Said Planning 'Fresh Aggression' on Arabs

JN1811200891 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1635 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] New threats by the United States to Libya point to preparations for a fresh American aggression on the Arab nation. In the meantime, the United States maintains its aggression against Iraq, and retains unfair trade sanctions against the heroic Iraqi people and deprives its children of food and medicine. By issuing threats against Libya, the United States thus provides fresh clues about the foundations of its new world order, and sends a message to Arab masses. The attempts being made to subjugate the Arab nation and to strike at the symbols of its force—no matter how small these are—will remain a constant tenet of the U.S. Administration. The United States also seems to be telling the Arab masses that the collusion by some Arab rulers and Arab apathy—popular and official—will be reciprocated by even greater U.S. arrogance and aggressiveness.

Washington sees in the reaction to the aggression against Iraq and the violation of pan-Arab taboos, along with certain subservient regimes' involvement in the direct aggression against its land and people, an encouragement to repeat the action against other Arab countries. Washington also seems to be telling the Arabs that the Arabs who did not lift a finger in response to the al-'Amiriyah shelter crime, the burial alive of Iraqi soldiers, and the use of missiles containing enriched uranium, will similarly turn a blind eye to a limited or full-scale aggression against Libya or any other Arab state. What is taking place on the front of the attempted liquidation of the Palestinian case, the implementation of the aims and plans of Shamir, and the involvement of the al-Asad and Husni regimes in this process, whets the appetite of the Americans even more. This is because Palestine is the core issue of the Arab struggle, and it has the pride of a place in every heart and conscience of the Arabs.

When Husni and al-Asad are tempted to bargain away Palestinian soil, rights, and struggle, and are unable and unwilling to object to what is taking place in other Arab territories, it behooves the Arab masses, especially at this particular moment, to take decisive measures against American aggression and all imperialist forces. Arab masses must take measures not just to prevent aggression against Libya, but also to end the continuing aggression against Iraq, by seriously pursuing the lifting of the economic blockade. The Arab masses must also stand up to all forces of imperialism and aggression, including Francois Mitterrand, who submissively followed the U.S. Administration in the aggression against Iraq, and who has once more set himself up as the devil's advocate in going along with U.S. charges against Libya.

U.S. Seen Trying To Divide, Weaken Arab Parties

TA1811122291 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 14 Nov 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "An Honest Broker Does Not Keep Double Standards"]

[Text] Two urgent issues are facing the United States and the Soviet Union, the cosponsors of the Madrid conference. Their position on these issues will be a test of their credibility in the negotiations that are expected to be resumed following the Madrid conference. These two issues are: settlement activity, which has escalated after the conference, and Arab coordination in those negotiations.

The link between these two issues is clear. No decisive and urgent measures are being adopted at present to bring about a halt to settlement activity, which is a prerequisite for launching negotiations under normal circumstances, where one party is not allowed to determine the actual results of the negotiations in advance. On the other hand, there is an attempt to sow discord between the Arab front parties to weaken them. In both cases, this is a net profit for the Israeli side.

Convening a multilateral conference to discuss regional issues in the absence of one or more Arab parties will not only harm that party but all the Arab parties, whose position will be weaker than if they had met and reached agreement beforehand.

It is obvious that by seeking to convene the multilateral conference hastily, before the achievement of any progress in bilateral negotiations, the U.S. Administration is pursuing a policy of isolating the Arab parties, specifically the Palestinian side, by driving it into disagreement with this or that Arab party.

The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, which have been infected by Baker s and Shamir's zeal to convene the multilateral conference at once, are exerting pressure on the other Arab states by threatening to go to the conference alone if the others keep using delaying tactics.

Apparently, this pressure is ultimately aimed at leaving the Palestinian negotiator alone. All the evidence indicates that the GCC states are determined to normalize their relations with Israel as soon as possible and apply economic pressure on some other Arab states to follow suit, without any connection to what is happening or may happen in the bilateral negotiations track.

An honest broker does not work to undermine one side's position to the benefit of another party in the negotiations. The U.S. insistence on holding the multilateral conference as soon as possible does not indicate that the U.S. is such a broker.

Syrian Participation in Peace Conference Ridiculed

JN1811185691 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The Syrian regime went to the settlement [al-taswiyah] conference, yet it still keeps up the pretense of holding onto old policy planks. We hear officials of the Syrian regime presenting a spectacle of firm and tough rhetoric, casting themselves in the role of someone with bargaining chips to use. Why are they doing this, when they took a step that has dissociated them from the revolutionary principles they used to claim for themselves? Syria is not in the same beleaguered position as Jordan, for instance. Nor has Syria paid the bill for aggression against Iraq, because it came to Madrid from Hafr al-Batin, and kept the lines of radicalism with Iran and Saudi Arabia, which is pushing for a successful settlement conference.

More important, Syria's rulers think the Golan question can wait, since demographically speaking, it is not all that urgent. It is no wonder, then, that Faruq al-Shar's political speech was marked by much indifference and many claims, and that it should have kept up the pretense of Syria being the sharp spearhead of the Arabs. If some of the Arabs who were at Madrid swallowed this Syrian game, the Zionists, who saw through it, did not. Hence their official decision that the Golan Heights is Zionist territory and as such is outside the terms of reference of the settlement conference. Under the circumstances, what is left for the Syrian rulers? What is the point of their going to Washington or elsewhere? What are they going to demand? And what are they going to defend, and what are they going to talk about? The Zionists have spared them the effort, and left them with nothing to choose, or even to compromise about.

We think the Zionists will lead all the negotiating Arab parties to the brink of bankruptcy, to which they had already led Syria's rulers and delegation. Why do Arab negotiators not learn a lesson from the white bull the Zionists slaughtered at the entrance to Madrid?

DFLP Urges Peace Talks Outside Middle East

JN1911104191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Nov 91 p 12

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Salih Ra'fat, official spokesman of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and member of the Political Bureau, has called for holding the bilateral talks outside the Middle East region in a neutral country that has relations with the PLO. He said the negotiations should take place in one place so that the Arab delegations could continue coordination, and so that the United States and Israel would not single them out and deal with the Arab delegations separately.

Replying to a question by AL-DUSTUR, he said that at top on the agenda of the Palestinian-Israeli talks should be the immediate halt to settlement activity in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip; the implementation of the 1949 Geneva Convention; and Israel's commitment to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which should apply to all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and to all stages of a solution, including the transitional stage.

He added: The DFLP rejects using bilateral talks as an vehicle to implement Shamir's plan or the Camp David accords on autonomy. Our understanding of the transitional stage is that it should be temporary. Implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 should begin by Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, by ensuring international protection for our people and enabling them to exercise their authority and national sovereignty over their territory and natural resources, and by securing the immediate return of all Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes after the 1967 war.

He noted that the issue of Palestinian refugees and their right to return according to UN General Assembly Resolution 194 should be discussed at the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and not at the multilateral talks.

He also said that the Palestinian people, who support their negotiating delegation, are determined to pursue and develop their brave intifadah and to escalate all kinds of struggle until the realization of full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories and the attainment of our peoples' national rights, foremost of which is their right to repatriation, self- determination, and establishment of their own independent state.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Head Seeks To Hold Summit Before 22 Dec

BK1711132891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Republic of the Maldives is determined to hold the sixth

summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] in Colombo before the Sixth South Asian Federation Games scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from 22 December this year. As continuing SAARC chairman, President Gayoom has already been in contact with member countries of SAARC through diplomatic moves to erase the damaging image that has been created before the world at large as a result of the boycott of the sixth SAARC summit by India and its two immediate border neighbors—Bhutan and Nepal.

The Maldives foreign minister, Fathulla Jameel, will transit Colombo today, heading for the Nepal capital of Kathmandu and then to Bhutan's mountain capital of Thimpu. Foreign Minister Jameel, carrying with him personalized notes from President Gayoom to the heads of governments of the two Himalayan landlocked states, is expected to persuade them to adopt a more positive attitude in order to salvage SAARC from possible disaster.

The Maldivian foreign minister is expected to proceed to New Delhi after his visits to Kathmandu and Thimpu and report to the Indian prime minister on possible positive reactions on a new date for the sixth SAARC summit in Colombo. However, he will plan his visit to New Delhi probably on Tuesday after assessing the Indian situation following the by-election results, where Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has contested the Nandyal constituency in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh to continue as prime minister.

Algeria

Commentary Criticizes Condemnation of Libya

LD1811173591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Commentary by Barhoum Boudjemaa]

[Text] Is this a remake of the events that preceded the preparations aimed at striking Iraq and destroying its potential and military power? This is the question that political analysts are asking themselves in the context of the current campaign launched against Libya under the pretext that the latter was involved in the bombing of a U.S. and a French airliner. The campaign started in America and ended up in France via Britain.

The last person to talk about this subject was France's President Francois Mitterrand, the author of the idea of the logic of war, who was the first to call, prior to the Gulf war, for the necessary use of military force against Iraq. In his recent statements, carried by French television, Francois Mitterrand was not afraid to suggest that he would not hesitate to threaten the Jamahiriyah if it is proved guilty by French justice in the framework of the current investigation aimed at establishing who is responsible for the bombing of the French DC-10 airliner in September last year [as heard].

What has been clear from the very beginning is that there are premeditated intentions against a specific country which has been condemned with the aim of implicating it in advance in a case in which files have been prepared outside international legality. It is also clear that there are specific parties which have their own law in dealing with others, and this is the same law which was used to deal with Iraq. Therefore, the international laws and conventions and the UN Charter are no longer the basis on which international relations are built and determined, because according to the French president's logic—which is the same logic used by America to deal with Noriega in Panama—any French, U.S., or British court can condemn any country or any president in any Third World country without having to resort to international legality.

Even if we suppose that terrorism is being practiced against the interests of those central states which dominate and steer international relations, why is the state terrorism openly practiced by the same states against entire peoples ignored, and why are there no voices heard in the West to condemn such terrorism?

FIS Names Imprisoned Leaders Election Candidates

LD1811171591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] An APS report cites well-informed sources in the National Provisional Bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] as saying that the nominations for the upcoming general election of the FIS leaders currently detained in Blida Prison have reportedly been replaced by other nominations, and that the FIS has named candidates for all of the 430 constituencies fixed by the recent law on electoral constituencies.

It is worth recalling that by virtue of the law the authorities had set a condition whereby it is necessary for a candidate to be physically present for the signing of the nomination authorization.

The FIS continues, however, to insist on nominating its imprisoned members, the same source adds. The lawyers of the imprisoned FIS leaders have started legal proceedings to invalidate the authorities' decision to refuse the FIS leaders' candidacies for the upcoming general election. The Algiers court yesterday postponed a decision on this legal action until Tuesday.

Libya

Request for Lockerbie Suspects Sent to Committee

LD1811145591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] 18 Nov (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has issued a statement. Here is the text:

On 18 November 1991 the Italian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, whose country looks after British interests in Libya, presented documents pertaining to the accusation against those whom they refer to as Libyan citizens alleged to be connected with the incident of the crash of Pan Am flight 103 in the airspace of Scotland in 1988. After looking at these documents, and since it is clear that they are of a legal nature and concern the crash of a civilian airplane and a clear request for the handing over of citizens so that they may be charged, the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has referred this request to the competent General People's Committee for Justice, which oversees the implementation of law for its consideration, assessment of its contents from the aspect of form and subject, and for drawing on the laws in force in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Justice Committee Statement

LD1811170191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text of statement issued by General People's Committee for Justice on the crash of a U.S. plane in Scotland on 21 December 1988]

[Text] Tripoli 18 Nov (JANA)—Today, 18 November 1991, the General People's Committee for Justice received via the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau the indictment issued by the Scottish public prosecutor containing an arrest warrant for two Libyan citizens in connection with the crash of Pan Am flight 103 in Scotland on 21 December 1988. After taking cognizance of this indictment and media

reports in this context, and on the basis of the law organizing the Supreme Court Number 6 for the year 1982 and law Number 51 for the year 1976 concerning the judicial system, the following has been decided:

First: Mr. Ahmad Tahir al-Zawi, Supreme Court Justice, to be delegated as examining magistrate to investigate the charges against the two Libyan citizens mentioned in the above indictment;

Second: The General People's Committee for Justice asks everyone concerned in Britain and the United States, including the families of the crash victims, to present what information and evidence they have, either directly to the delegated examining magistrate or through the Arab Libyan missions and people's bureaus abroad;

Third: The General People's Committee for Justice emphasizes its readiness to provide all the necessary facilities and guarantees for everyone who wishes to testify or to give information that would help the examining magistrate in reaching the truth;

Fourth: The General People's Committee for Justice expresses its readiness to cooperate with the judicial authorities concerned so that the truth, which is of interest to all of us, may be revealed.

[Signed] The General People's Committee for Justice.

Embassy in Tehran Denies Lockerbie Charge

LD1811164291 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—The Libyan Embassy here today refuted accusations of involvement of Libya in the reported crash of the Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland in 1988.

The embassy in a press release rejected American and British charges of involvement of Libyan officials in the crash, which Washington says was due to an explosion aboard, and denounced it as "a terrorist act."

It also expressed sympathy with the relatives of the victims.

Calling for the issue to be investigated by an "impartial court" the embassy said Libya reserved the right to defend itself in an international court.

"The language of intimidation is an outdated response to the issues of the time, and should be replaced by the language of reason of logic," said the embassy statement.

The American plane crashed near Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing all 270 people aboard.

The U.S. and Britain on Thursday laid 'criminal' charges against two Libyan intelligence agents, for the alleged bombing of the plane.

Tripoli Termed Casualty of Hostage Release

LD1811204391 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] A spokesman for the UN secretary general has announced that he has received assurances from his special adviser on the Arab region that two hostages, the Briton Terry Waite and the American Thomas Sutherland, have been released. The spokesman indicated that the two hostages were on their way to Damascus.

This situation begs the following question: Why is Libya being accused, falsely, slanderously, and at this specific time, of being behind the downing of the U.S. plane on British soil?

The aim behind these unjust accusations has now become clear, as Libya was meant to be a victim in the deal of releasing Western hostages. Despite the exposure of the nature of this deal—to acquit sectors that are dear to us—and despite the release of hostages from their captivity at the expense of accusing Libya, our country, which is innocent of terrorism, accepts being a victim of this operation as long as it leads to the release of innocent people and removes the accusation from sectors that are dear to us. [sentence as heard]

Official Receives Iran's Sheykholeslam

LD1811212291 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau this morning met brother Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister, who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. During this meeting, which was attended by the Iranian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, ways and means for developing and consolidating bilateral relations between the two sister countries and international issues of common interest were discussed.

Morocco

Israel's Golan Decision Challenges Peace Process

LD1611125791 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 16 (MAP)—Morocco deems the Israeli decision to annexate the Golan Heights as "a challenge to the peace process" initiated in Madrid. Speaker of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said Morocco always backed the peace process as a comprehensive project to settle the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestinian issue.

Morocco is concerned that such a challenge is dangerously putting at stake that ongoing peace process at a moment of general mobilization to reach a lasting and fair solution to the Middle East problem.

Sudan

Government Voices 'Solidarity' With Libya

EA1711223591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 17th November (SUNA)—The Sudanese [as received] has expressed its concern over the recent accusation by some Western countries to the Libyan Jamahiriyah for involvement in American incidents and has called for self-restraint on tackling the affair.

The Foreign Ministry said in a press statement it issued Sunday [17 November] that the threat as implied in recent statements by senior officials of some Western powers "endangers not only the Libyan people but also the security and stability in the entire region, and even world peace and security." "The Sudan, while voicing solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people, calls for exercising a policy of self-restraint, resorting to international law and conventions and refraining from any unilateral measures that might jeopardise the Libyan people's safety and the security of the region," the Foreign Ministry said. It added that the Sudan supports the Libyan call for taking the affair to the International Court of Justice, which usually considers such inter-state disputes. The statement declared the Sudan's full solidarity and support to the Libyan people who are leading the Arab struggle against hegemony and predominance. The Sudan, the statement went on, firmly opposes the use of military force against Libya and reiterates its commitment to defending Arab territories as stated by the Arab League Charter, which obliges all Arab states to stand up against any aggression against any Arab state. The Foreign Ministry concluded by calling for resort to reason for a peaceful and lawful settlement of the crisis.

Al-Bashir Receives Iranian Official, Message

LD1811175991 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi, who is currently in Khartoum, today delivered a messge from President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the chairman of Sudan's Council of National Salvation Revolution, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

The two discussed Iran-Sudan coordination during the summit meet of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) due to be held in Dakar, Senegal in December, as well as cooperation among Islamic countries in the political and economic spheres.

Sarmadi referred to the rapidly changing world scene and called for further activities of OIC members in forming the new world order.

Al-Bashir underlined the need for cooperation among Islamic states to thwart international plots.

The Sudanese head of state who visited the Islamic Republic last December, invited Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay a state visit to Khartoum.

Al-Bashir To Assume Information Minister Duties

EA1711145591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1644 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council General 'Umar al-Bashir has announced his assumption of the duties of the minister of culture and information, stressing that the media will witness a radical change in its program in a way that corresponds with the principles of the Islamic shari'ah.

Addressing on Saturday [16 November] morning at the people's hall the symposium on public appearance under Islamic shari'ah, Gen. al-Bashir said the mass media were not reflecting the true face of the national salvation revolution that glimmers with Islam and application of the shari'ah of Allah.

Gen. al-Bashir, upon receiving a memo from the general women's union, vowed to render the Sudanese information and media an advocate of shari'ah and virtue. He also pledged to purify all the media and to make them efficient forums for advising and guiding the masses for the welfare of the nation.

The symposium was organized by the High Committee of Public Appearance in collaboration with the "AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH" daily.

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry 'Condemns' Israel's Golan Stand

LD1411221591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry made the following statement:

The Tunisian Government—which has followed with intense interest the international efforts aimed at bringing a just, comprehensive, and durable peace to the Middle East, on the basis of respect for international legitimacy as represented in the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, and which has led to the convening of the Madrid peace conference, a source of hope and optimism within the international community for achieving a solution to the problem of the Middle East—expresses its concern over and its strong condemnation of last Monday's Israeli Knesset decision stipulating that the occupied Golan Heights be considered nonnegotiable Israeli territory. It condemns this measure, which contravenes the UN Security Council resolution of December 1981 in particular, and it considers this a

flagrant provocation directed at all peace advocates and a new Israeli maneuver to hinder the current peace efforts.

Tunisia believes that such illegitimate practices—which are also embodied in Israel's continued defiance of the international community in continuing to build settlements, even while the Madrid conference was in session, and by its repeated aggressions against southern Lebanon, thereby violating territorial integrity and breaching its inviolability—constitute a threat to all peace efforts and are an abortion of the spirit of the Madrid conference.

Tunisia calls upon the international community and the UN Security Council in particular to repel such practices and maneuvers, and to cause Israel to respect international charters and abandon stubbornness and the policy of the fait accompli.

President Ben Ali on Madrid Talks, Regional Ties

PM1811092291 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Nov 91 pp 18-19

[Interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by editor-in-chief Milhim Karam in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Karam] The world is witnessing deep changes in international relations. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, what role do you think Tunisia can play within the framework of these changes in general and with regard to coordinating Arab-European relations in particular?

[Ben Ali] The world is witnessing deep changes which have altered traditional criteria in international politics and which are still having an impact on international relations. The most notable of these changes is the disappearance of bipolarity, the decline of ideologies, and the eager move toward the values of openness, democracy, and human rights. Tunisia was a pioneer in all these fields. This—in addition to its geographical position; its historical, cultural, and human status; and its relations with all states—qualifies it to perform a role in perpetuating and spreading these values.

On that basis, for example, Tunisia called for an international agreement on development and peace and a charter for Maghrebi communities in Europe. It also urged support for the principle of joint development among all parties. It welcomed all the initiatives urging disarmament, international legitimacy and dialogue, and support for just causes and, first and foremost, the cause of the struggling Palestinian people.

It has been working effectively to the same end within its Arab and Islamic context since 7 November. It has earnestly contributed to building the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] in order to create an entity of solidarity, unity, and integration capable of dealing with the other regional communities.

On the same basis, Tunisia can—both single-handedly and through the UMA—play its part in coordinating Arab-European relations. One of the means for carrying out such coordination is the five-plus-five seminar scheduled to be held in Tunis early next year.

[Karam] The Madrid peace conference has been convened. What is your assessment of the conference after its first round?

[Ben Ali] We urged the convening of such a conference as our contribution to a solution to the Palestinian issue, which we regard as the crime of the 20th century. We believe that its continuation is a major reason for the complications and problems which the Arab region has suffered for half a century. We wanted to help to resolve this dilemma to support what is right and because of our belief in the justness of the cause. This is in addition to the fraternal ties that bind us to the Palestinian people. So we welcome the conference and hope that it will achieve this aim by enabling the fraternal Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and secure a comprehensive solution to all the region's problems.

On the same basis, we have supported from the outset the proposal to convene the peace conference in Madrid, and we agreed to attend it as an observer within the UMA.

We regarded the convening of the conference as a good omen and a positive sign that will open the door to new stages and other steps, in the hope that negotiations would lead to the desired results by establishing a just and comprehensive peace for all parties and all issues, and especially the Palestinian people's right to their own land and to establish their own state with Jerusalem as its capital. We believe that the joint leadership and the role played by all groups is a very positive thing. But the hope is that this leadership will continue to sponsor the conference and its negotiations in order to end that chronic conflict so that the peoples of the region will concentrate on development and construction.

[Karam] You and your brother leaders in Algeria, Morocco, Libya, and Mauritania have held four summit conferences since the establishment of the UMA was announced on 17 February 1989. How would you assess what was achieved at those meetings?

[Ben Ali] The establishment of the union was the realization of an old dream. It would not have been realized had it not been for the clearing of the air among all the brothers—a task which was possible only after 7 November 1987, which played an effective role in that regard.

With the four summit conferences held so far under the UMA we have managed to take new steps along the UMA path, to locate its organs, and to conclude numerous agreements, thus enabling our union to deal efficiently with international communities.

The union has made tangible progress despite the short period that has elapsed since its establishment. Perhaps this is reflected in the controlling of the forms of cooperation among the UMA states by controlling the joint development strategy endorsed by the foreign ministers in Algeria. This document contains the basic principles and timetable for establishing a free market area, the lifting of customs barriers, the drawing up of standardized customs tariffs with regard to foreign countries, and the standardization of customs legislation to achieve a comprehensive and integrated union. This is in addition to the set of measures taken, joint industrial enterprises, and the UMA common market, which are designed to achieve complete integration. [passage omitted]

[Karam] What about the Tunisian opposition? How will you deal with it?

[Ben Ali] Our dealings are based on dialogue and the exchange of information. The dialogue exists and is continuing. Today I met for one and a half hours with the secretaries general of the political parties and listened to their views.

We are always working to involve the opposition in all issues and matters concerning the country's future. The dialogue will continue within the framework of the Higher Council of the National Pact, which we will work to activate and develop.

[Karam] Will Lebanon completely recover its health and impose its sovereignty throughout its territory to free itself from the predicament that has weighed heavily on its soul for years?

[Ben Ali] That is what we want. We are distressed by what assails that fraternal country and we do not hesitate to participate in and support the efforts to end the bloodshed and the predicament that has assailed it. I believe that the international and regional climate can now help to end Lebanon's suffering and to enable it to recover its health.

[Karam] What about relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Ben Ali] They excellent, and there is mutual understanding between us. I am fully confident that the next days will witness support for the fraternal and positive cooperation that has always characterized our relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and with my brother, King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, who always demonstrates his love for his brothers, and especially the Tunisians.

Opposition Parties Welcome Meeting With President

LD0911022891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Following President Zine El Abdine Ben Ali's reception of the secretaries general of the national opposition parties on the occasion of the official ceremony held yesterday morning at Carthage Palace, the Unionist Democratic Union, the Communist Party, the Party of Popular Unity, the Progressive Socialist Rally, and the Socialist Democrats Movement issued the following statement:

Following the head of state's reception of the national opposition parties secretaries general, the parties emphasize the significance and positiveness of this meeting in which a frank conversation took place concerning a number of essential issues related to the democratic process, and the need to give it an impetus in many areas, particularly in information, consolidating national dialogue and developing its forms, channeling its contents toward strengthening the internal front, and reinforcing the pluralistic civic society. The secretaries general and the head of state found complete understanding on the issues discussed.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd on Middle East, Domestic Affairs

NC1511172291 London MBC Television in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Nov

[Interview with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz by correspondent 'Irfan Nizam-al-Din; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nizam-al-Din] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. MBC Television is happy to interview the custodian of the two holy mosques on his views on our nation's issues. I beg to ask him first: Have you seen the Arabic television station, the first of its kind, which broadcasts from London via satellite for all the Arabs in Europe, the United States, and in the Arab world? What are your impressions?

[Fahd] I welcome officials of this station, which has shown the Arab nation, outside and in the Arab countries, that there is an Arab voice which wants this station's messages to be heard by the Arab nation and all Arabs in Europe and anywhere else it can be reached.

I have followed the station's transmissions since it started. Flattery aside, it seems it has been operating for years, not months. I am not saying this as a compliment, but it seems to me that its officials and founders were completely prepared before transmission began, making its voice heard in the Arab world and by Arabs in Europe. From what I have heard it will probably get stronger or reach other levels; a very good thing. The most important program for me and any other viewer is an hourly newscast, repeating earlier casts if nothing new happens or adding to it as new world developments occur. I listen to its correspondents from all over the world; a very good step.

The station's most important achievement, while still new, was its constructive role at the Madrid conference to try to establish or to find peace between the Arabs and Israel.

[Nizam-al-Din] I hope that the custodian of the two holy mosques will listen patiently to my many questions. The nation's issues and problems are many, particularly when world television stations, radios, and press agencies asked to participate in this interview through MBC. They have some questions, if you will allow me to present them. The first, may God prolong your life, concerns the world's eyes on the peace cause. Now that the Madrid conference has ended, how do you assess the first phase? What are the conditions for success following Madrid?

[Fahd] The start was difficult, as every informed person knows, because the issue is not two or three years, but dozens of years old. It is complicated if the intention is to make it so, simple if that is the intention. It narrows down to one legitimate right and a state that does not want to respond to it. In my view there is no problem. I believe that Arab leaders are concerned with this issue. Naturally, they are divided into two groups: One directly related and the other linked to it. We are talking as Arabs who are linked to this issue, whether Arab figures who went to Madrid or ourselves as participants. The Gulf countries participated through a representative, the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

[Fahd] In this issue, as I said earlier, we, the Arabs, have not asked for more than what has actually taken place. The major and direct objective for making these efforts successful, which was the most important factor in the first place... [changes thought] ... first, I want to thank His Excellency President Bush, president of the United States of America, and also his secretary of state for the immense efforts he made and his shuttling back and forth between one country and another. Of course, this was under the directives of President Bush. I know from the United States—the U.S. president and his secretary of state—that there is determination to restore rights to their owners in a just and fair manner. If we look at the issue at hand, void of any other considerations, then there is no problem. There were some problems, clashes, and battles. These battles ended with Israel's occupation of Arab lands—lands that are the focal point, the essence, and the most important of these was the well known eastern part of Jerusalem. This is the right of the Arabs and the Muslims. As you know, in Jerusalem there are locations for the Muslims, others for the Christians, and yet others for the Jews. This is the reality. Clashes took place between the Arabs and the Israelis. The situation, as we saw it, culminated with Israel's occupation of the whole of Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Sinai, and the Golan Heights. If Israel aspires for peace, as we have heard it say previously, then peace is clear. Israel withdraws from the Arab territories it occupied in 1956 and 1967. It occupied these lands by force, and occupation by force does not entitle anyone to own these lands. Ownership has to take place through legitimate means.

We now see that... [changes thought] I say this not merely because I am an Arab, but because I firmly believe that [word indistinct] a problem [word indistinct] any Arab. A logical and reasonable response has been voiced by the Arabs and the leaders of the Arab nation proceeding from the premise that they want this issue to be resolved in a just and fair manner and in accordance with international resolutions. These international resolutions were adopted by world leaders, the foremost being President Bush, President Gorbachev, and officials in these two administrations, most prominent among them being the U.S. secretary of state. The latter made numerous visits to the Arab countries and Israel.

We now hear that Israel does not want to withdraw; nor does it want to be logical and realistic, thus affirming that it is not the Arabs that do not want peace. Israel used to say that the Arabs do not want peace. The Arabs are now saying they want peace, but the just and fair peace, that peace which is in accordance with Security Council and UN resolutions. I believe the member countries of

these large organizations are neutral. Therefore, if Israel truly wants peace, then the doors to peace are now open.

Israel used to say that the Palestinians do not want to sit down with Israel at the same negotiating table. I believe what we have seen and heard on television is logical and reasonable. The Palestinians spoke in a way indicating they want peace. I also believe that the PLO chairman has not been asked to make more practical and constructive statements than he already has. This also applies to President Hafiz al-Asad, in addition to the Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories].

So what is it exactly that the Arabs are required to do? I think the only thing the Arabs are required to do is to give up their rights, which is illogical. I hear and read that there are several Jewish leaders, whether in Europe, the United States, South America, or elsewhere, who are logical and who speak with reason and logic. But the current administration, or rather the officials in Israel are making one statement after the other and these statements fail to show any desire for understanding. What is there to reach an understanding about? The basis of this understanding is to establish peace. If Israel wants peace, I believe that the doors are now open. The Arabs should not be asked for peace without the restoration of the Arabs' rights. When I demand my legitimate right, does that mean I am mistaken, or is it he who refuses to respond to legitimacy who is mistaken? Unfortunately, we hear of statements, whether citing Israeli television and other stations or by world statesmen and journalists, that do not promise that there is an understanding. But the issue now is being embraced by two superpowers: The United States and the Soviet Union. I think that logic and reason say that these two countries would not have interfered in the matter if they had not been convinced that the Arab territories must be returned to the Arabs. I do not think that there are Israeli territories under occupation. The occupation is of Arab territories, and foremost among them is Jerusalem. We hope that reason will prevail. What I understand from the leaders of the Arab nation is that, in fact, they do not want an international problem to be created. But I do not think that any Arab is required to give up his lands. Why should he give up his lands? Israel is saying these are Jewish territories. No. If we go hundreds of years back in history, we will find that logic and reason are contrary to this. So, we cannot judge now. We are now in the process of discussions and the United States is exerting the greatest efforts, whether through President Bush or his secretary of state. Let us not jump ahead of events.

We hope reason will prevail and this issue will be concluded in a just and fair way in accordance with the international laws and legitimate rights. I am saying this as an Arab. Can anyone dare come and ask me why I am demanding my legitimate right or [words indistinct] give up my legitimate right? No. We hope that reason will prevail. We are hearing statements that do not show a response. Perhaps there are statements being made one way or the other, but the process still has a long way to go, and I believe that the United States and the Soviet Union fully realize that the Arab response seeks to ensure that no one says that the Arabs do not want peace. There are resolutions and obligations of the Security Council that we hope will be implemented in this respect.

[Nizam-al-Din] I now have a question from the British ITN news, which is an independent television network, ITV, Channel Four, and some American and European television networks. What is the next step after the Madrid conference, and do you expect negotiations to resume soon based on the information you have?

[Fahd] So far the exact time has not yet been fixed, but there is a commitment to resume negotiations. I have not heard from the Arabs that they reject any negotiations. But perhaps there are some clarifications which those Arabs directly concerned with this issue want made clear. What we hear from Israel now is that it does not want any negotiations or understanding. I believe that the measures taken, organized, and started in Madrid will be resumed sometime soon. I cannot confirm whether in one month, or more or less. [Nizam-al-Din] Of course, on the sidelines of the peace conference, the subject of Lebanon was one of the major issues. Do you believe that the war has ended? And what is your viewpoint on the situation in Lebanon now? There is a supplementary question from BBC news television: What is the stand and role of Saudi Arabia in attending the peace conference?

[Fahd] First, as regards the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as you have just asked: Will Saudi Arabia continue its role of good offices, or has it reached its limit regarding the Lebanon question? It is a known fact that the Lebanese issue was studied fully and the grounds for resolving it were set during the conference held in the Arab Maghreb. The issue was entrusted to three Arab leaders: His Majesty King Hassan, President Chadli Benjedid, and myself from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Extensive efforts were exerted. Naturally, some obstacles came up, and this is expected, no doubt because the question of Lebanon was complicated from the outset. I shall be quite frank here. Why am I saying that? I am saying this not because [word indistinct], but as a personal view. Why was the Lebanese problem complicated after the term of President Amin al-Jumayyil?

There was a government in Lebanon then, al-Huss' government. According to what I have been told and what I have heard, al-Huss' government resigned, but the Lebanese president asked it to stay on. Therefore, it stayed on doing its duty in a legitimate manner. Suddenly, a new government was formed. As an Arab who reads and listens, I realize that before a new government under 'Awn can be formed, the president must ask the prime minister of Lebanon, al- Huss, to hand in his resignation according to the law in Lebanon and in any other country for that matter. After al-Huss handed in his resignation, the cabinet could be dissolved, and a new one formed in its place. Then the Lebanese president could form his cabinet, whether headed by 'Awn or by someone else. It is illogical to have a cabinet there, which was asked to stay on by the Lebanese president, and have

a new cabinet formed at the last moment, after which the Lebanese president left Lebanon. This was the situation. Finally, 'Awn withdrew.

The al-Ta'if meetings took place. Let me go back to the events which took place then and which I believe were the basis and grounds from which legitimacy proceeded. The majority of prominent Lebanese figures have left Lebanon, whether for Arab or European countries, the United States, or elsewhere.

The Saudi Kingdom consulted with Morocco and Algeria, deciding it was best to ask Lebanese members of parliament to meet anywhere they desired to discuss their affairs. They chose al-Ta'if in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; which we welcomed. I believe they chose it because they know that it does not interfere in their affairs, support one party against another or favor one opinion against another. We considered it positive and practical that all Lebanon's personalities met for a while. They agreed to normalize the situation and take the necessary domestic measures stipulated under the Lebanese system. They elected a president who chose a government, and matters began to proceed normally.

For several years Lebanon has faced several problems. Some people benefit from problems and some do not. Regrettably, human nature is like this. Those who benefit do not want to give up their bnefits and those who do not benefit want to, even at the homeland's expense. This does not happen only in Lebanon but the world over.

Nevertheless, matters proceeded albeit slowly. Suddenly, the Lebanese president—efficient and one of the best of men—was assassinated. As soon as he assumed office he proved he was fully capable. Another president was elected. The current president is also capable; elected by the Lebanese themselves. No one intervened in Lebanon's affairs, a government was formed, there were some problems, and some ministers resigned. This is natural.

I know Lebanon very well. In 1951 it stood for amity, friendship, and safety. Several problems occurred, and there was foreign intervention. Lebanon started to export problems to the Arab countries, becoming a whip for anyone who wanted to harm another one. Lebanon should have been left alone. Problems were created among the Lebanese and, for them, outside Lebanon.

Thanks be to God, the situation in Lebanon is now normal despite some problems. This is to be expected. Several communities live in Lebanon, each with a different opinion, but it is hoped that these obstacles will be removed in time. Most important is that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon. Israel protests it is being attacked every now and then, but if Israel withdraws I do not believe anyone will have the right to create a problem for Lebanon.

[Nizam-al-Din] There is another question on the Saudi role in the peace conference. Does Saudi Arabia support the peace process without reservation?

[Fahd] What do they mean by reservation? If it means that we say to Israel...[changes thought] we do what Israel wants, I think that is out of the question. If it means are the Arabs willing to meet with the Israelis again, I believe that the question is on target and it is beneficial for the Arabs to meet with Israel anywhere, anywhere the two parties agree on. It is useful and commendable that the Arabs meet Israel another time, anywhere that is mutually acceptable. That is my opinion.

[Nizam-al-Din] You have stated several times that you support peace in Lebanon and the Middle East. All Arabs and Muslims know your positions supporting the Palestine cause and the Arabism of Jerusalem. We wish you to tell us more so that new generations may learn of your honorable stand on the Palestinian issue.

[Fahd] Our position on the Palestinian issue is not new. It is based on norms and standards laid down at the time of King 'Abd-al- 'Aziz and President Roosevelt. If we went back to the records we would find President Roosevelt making a commitment or undertaking ['ata'] to King 'Abd-al-'Aziz that the Palestinian issue would be dealt with according to legitimate norms and standards. Since then Saudi Arabia has been committed to the Palestinian cause, has supported the Palestinian people, and has maintained as legitimate the Arab Palestinian right over Palestinian land inhabited by Palestinians since time immemorial.

Let me ask any person: Is stability desirable or not? The commonly accepted view, of course, is that stability is desirable.

Does Israel itself want stability or not? Does Israel want peace or not? We cannot say that Israel does not exist. It does. But what kind of existence? Palestinians have repeatedly said that they are willing to participate in a single government with Israel, a Palestinian-Jewish one.

[Nizam-al-Din] You refer to the [PLO proposal concerning the establishment of a bi-communal] democratic state?

[Fahd] Yes. The democratic state and all that. If this was unacceptable Israel should at least return the land it occupied in 1967, including the Golan, Sinai... [Fahd corrects himself] Sinai has returned to its rightful owners, proving conclusively that the other land—the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and Golan—is an indisputable Arab right. It is a right that cannot be denied or contested. The Israelis can, and will, say that they do not wish to withdraw, and that they will not withdraw. They will say such things. Do you believe that the world's just and fair countries would agree with Israel?

Does Israel now prefer regional peace and stability or not? If it prefers peace and stability, how would it interpret Arab participation in Madrid? The Arabs, in my opinion, have clearly shown that they prefer peace to fighting, tension, and endless problems. Otherwise, why would the Arabs have gone to Madrid? They went, sitting with Israel at the same table. It used to be said that the

Arabs do not want to sit with Israel. Syria sat. Egypt, as we know, played a role...[sentence left incomplete] Sinai returned, thank God. The Palestinians sat with the Israelis, so did the Jordanians. How can anyone say the Arabs do not want peace? I believe that the countries and nations which sat at the same table talking to Israel...[sentence left incomplete] The psychological complex that we thought was difficult to overcome or satisfactorily conclude was to bring the Palestinians to the same table as the Israelis.

I would say that Palestinian thinking is rational and logical. It closed the door on those who want to say the Palestinians do not want peace. They want peace according to legitimate rights and known UN Security Council resolutions. What is being sought? I am following up the statements of Palestinians, from inside and outside the occupied territories. I was pleased by all the PLO chairman's recent statments, which were very well presented. No one can say that he does not want to reach a solution—based on legitimate rights. When the Israelis sat with the Palestinians at the same table, logic prevailed. When Syria and Jordan talked about these issues in Madrid, the Arab response was clear. I think that no one can ask the Arabs to do more than they or the Palestinians have done, whether from inside or outside the occupied territories. Now it is up to Israel, if it wants peace. I think that we, the Arabs, have shown that we want peace. What does Israel want? Does it want the situation to remain pending or in a state of flux? I do not think it is in anyone's interest for matters to remain like this, but I am confident that the situation must be resolved according to legitimate rights. I do not think that we, as Arabs, want more than our legitimate rights. Yes, we want peace, but not by capitulating. We want logical and reasonable peace.

[Nizam-al-Din] There is a supplementary question from (Christian Mallar), senior international affairs editor and commentator for French television's Channel Five. Following yesterday's Israeli Knesset resolution rejecting any territorial concessions, do you not think that the Israelis are trying to sabotage peace efforts, despite United States' and other world states' pressure to implement the two UN Security Council resolutions?

[Fahd] No one hoped that the Knesset would adopt this resolution, judging by the prime minister's position, which has long been known. If something new, peace, occurs—and Israel has always said that it wants peace—would not the Knesset support Shamir. I will not be surprised. I still think that peace will be achieved. We hope by peaceful means.

[Nizam-al-Din] How do you assess relations with the United States after the Bush Administration fulfills its commitments, particularly as presidential elections are set for the coming year?

[Fahd] If logic and long-range thinking give rights to those who have rights and a legitimate right to one who plays an international role, I say that if the Democrats, the Republicans, and the American people agree to support President Bush's nomination, I think it is the American people's duty. Not because he is President Bush, a long-time friend, but because he is a man of peace, moderation, and logic. Of course things can, as anywhere, move the other way. I say that President Bush is most qualified to return as President of the United States so that he can accomplish all he has established as a basis for justice and peace, and not as a basis for evil and interference in others' affairs. President Bush is not such a person. I think he deserves to be the President of the United States once again.

[Nizam-al-Din] The Gulf war and the catastrophe of Kuwait's occupation caused a big rift in the Arab world. I do not know whether there is room today to restore Arab solidarity, and whether the Kingdom can help unite the Arabs?

[Fahd] A rift has occurred. We in Saudi Arabia have never wished for one. I attended the Cairo conference after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and would have wanted some of the Arab leaders—who actually went their own way—to side with those who told Iraq: No. You are wrong to occupy Kuwait and should leave it alone. Had those Arabs... [changes thought] ...of course we heard them saying that matters should be left for talks and that.... [sentence incomplete as heard] The Iraqi president's delegate did not give me the impression that Iraq would withdraw. He said: There is nothing to talk about. A part of Iraq has returned to Iraq.

The facts were misrepresented. Had they said that there was a problem between Iraq and Kuwait which they had been trying to solve, and once they had they would withdraw, there is no doubt that a solution could have been found.

What was the problem? It was about matters that were not hard to resolve. Iraq said two-thirds of the al-Rumaylah field belonged to it but Kuwait thought differently. Iraq said that dispute cost it $2.5 billion. Iraq said Kuwait entered Iraqi territories. I think there is no need to go over all that. I was the last man to expect the Iraqi president to do that, because I knew him. Suddenly, Iraq invaded and the Iraqi president promised that in two days matters would be resolved.

This was a painful episode, causing a rift in the Arab world. I hope it will not be seen as a model. Sad as it was, I do not think that this event should be seen as a guiding signal. No. We should see it as the past. It was abnormal and illogical.

Speaking on behalf of Saudi Arabia, I must state that the Kingdom's policy is not to interfere in other countries' affairs, according to Arab League principles and Arab summit resolutions. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is part of the Arab people, and I believe that my feelings are similar to any other Arab leader's. We have been caught up in a crisis that caused grief to all sincere Arabs and non-Arabs. Shall we dwell on that forever? If we look back, we will find history full of problems for people, better judges than us,

more reasoned, and able. Problems occur. It is important to learn how to solve them cordially.

[Nizam-al-Din] This is a question from the BBC's Arabic section and the DPA [German Press Agency] on the possibility of resuming... [Nizam-al-Din changes thought] Saudi-PLO relations were very strong until the PLO declared its position on the Gulf war. Have there been any developments on resuming normal ties?

[Fahd] There is nothing new, but I do not believe the rift is permanent. Everything takes time, depending on circumstances and the return to reason by those who have strayed off the path. In my opinion the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not made a mistake. Anyone who does what he thinks is right but then finds it is harmful may go back to the right path. There is nothing wrong with that. It is a measure of a man's character, and of a leader's, if he can return to the right path from which he strayed. It is right to correct yourself. There is nothing wrong with that. Mistakes and problems happen. Matters will take their course.

[Nizam-al-Din] The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states ended their meetings in Cairo yesterday. Are you satisfied with their coordination and cooperation?

[Fahd] The eight states have provided a very good example, with no problem occurring among them. Matters are raised amicably, always achieving the best result. We hope that the eight will benefit from the experiment, and their other brothers' experiences. I do not say that the eight have the final say, that their method or their own talks are better than those within the Arab framework, but I can say that they agree clear and unambiguous principles and bases, and, most importantly, on the basis of common interests. They do each other no harm. The thinking which prevails at their meetings is always the same. The thoughts of one state are the thoughts of all, because there is goodwill and a firm desire to serve as an example of coordination. This is an Arab demand—that understanding and agreement stem from the heart, as it does among the eight states. They are moving in a straight line. They are not monopolizing the grouping. Eventually it will be open to all the Arab nation, which can take what it thinks is good and add to what exists. The Arab world needs a review of Arab League regulations. The League has existed for tens of years, matters and events have developed, and new things have happened, so a review is needed to be consistent with the times. I think many agree the Arab League secretary general is one of the best, qualified and able to present to the Arab nation and leaders new constructive ideas consistent with the times and world developments.

[Nizam-al-Din] The Islamic and Gulf summit conferences are impending. Can you tell us what their main topics will be? Do you think they will resolve many of the nation's problems, and will you attend?

[Fahd] God willing, we will attend. As for the Gulf states, although some transient problems exist, such as those between Bahrain and Qatar, we think that the Bahraini and Qatari leaders' wisdom will solve this problem amicably. I know of no problems among the other Gulf states. This very good grouping was established by Gulf states in a friendly way. Do not forget that systems, customs and traditions are 99 percent similar, in some cases 100 percent. The Gulf grouping was not established to harm anyone or interfere in anyone's affairs, but to serve the Gulf peoples' interests and those of the other Arab peoples of whom we are part. Any problems that crop up among the Gulf states are always resolved amicably. The Gulf states have a specific policy, not to interfere in anyone's affairs and not to allow anyone to interfere in theirs. The secretary general of the Gulf states outlines its decisions or policies. Anything else published or reported by any other source, radios, newspapers, and so forth only expresses their views, no one else's. The decisions which bind the Gulf states are issued by the secretary general or the secretariat general following summit meetings or meetings of foreign or other ministers. These decisions can be said to represent the Gulf state's views. Statements or stories from any other source only express the views of those who made them.

[Nizam-al-Din] What about the Islamic summit, servant of the two holy mosques?

[Fahd] The Islamic summit, as we all know, met in al-Ta'if in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. The meeting was very important. There was misunderstanding, particularly between Iraq and Syria, but neither the Iraqi president nor the Syrian president have said they will not attend the summit because of problems between them. The Islamic Arab, African, and Asian leaders had a very good meeting. It was important that they start by focusing on a base. As you know, the foundation marks a beginning, attention is paid first to it then everything else is built on the foundation.

The next Islamic conference or the Islamic grouping conference, call it what you will, will be held amid difficulties and problems, Arab, African or Asian. Perhaps these problems may be solved by the Islamic grouping's conference in Senegal. Islamic heads of state should agree, because agreement among the leaders differs from that among the countries' officials. An official entrusted with a task acts within his mission. If officials in the country he is to hold talks with raise other issues of which he is not aware...[sentence incomplete as heard] But when he is familiar with the issues he will not receive a satisfactory answer. Meetings among heads of state who know all matters and problems...[changes thought] ... I would like to say that the summit due to be held in Senegal is very important, not just for its results but because it will unify the ranks. We hope that these problems take priority at the Islamic conference because a Muslim would deal with another Muslim gently, with understanding, and so on.

I always like love to prevail and problems to be solved fairly and justly. There is no place without problems. You find them at home. How about African, Asian, and Arab leaders? Each country has its own traditions, ways

of life, commitments, obligations, and principles, but their only [common] slogan is Islam. This is all very well as long as there are rules and bases. We imagine that there could be problems or wrangling over an issue. This is natural. Why should the grouping hold a conference and why should Islamic countries' leaders or their representatives attend? Because the Islamic leaders seek to adopt decisions benefiting their peoples. For these decisions to be practical, effective, and constructive the leaders should endorse them. If any head of state has a plan in mind it would be better for him to put it forward to the Islamic leaders instead of sending delegates. The Islamic leaders in Senegal will surely discuss existing problems, be they African, Arab, or Asian. [Words indistinct] Will there be a response and will the problems be solved peacefully? That is what is required. At least they should be ready to solve them. There should be ways and means to follow up these problems, acceptable to the countries involved. The principle should be acceptable and a country should be ready to agree with another or choose an intermediary to solve any existing problem. Problems always exist. I believe that this conference will be held amid unprecedented and complicated circumstances. Previous Islamic conferences dealt with limited issues; I base this on my knowledge of such conferences. As I understand, the Senegal conference was twice postponed. The circumstances so dictated.

We hope that the postponements benefit. A Muslim is always linked to and feels love for his brother Muslim, whether he is in an Arab, Asian, or African country. The word Islam groups us. There is no god but God and Muhammad is God's messenger. This links us. I believe it is the best circumstance. We hope to emerge from the Islamic conference, in an Islamic country whose leaders are the best of men, foremost among whom is President Abdou Diouf, with resolutions to numerous issues which non-Islamic peoples do not expect us to solve. We hope that these issues will be resolved completely, which is good. If they are not resolved completely, principles, bases, and rules should be laid down to resolve them.

[Nizam-al-Din] Allow me, custodian of the two holy mosques, to move on to another subject. A few days ago I read a media report that augured well for the Saudi people and the Arabs. You must be aware of that report. It says that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has overcome Gulf crisis difficulties. This is thanks to God, your prudent economic policy, and your ability to deal fimly and head-on with any circumstance. The budget will be announced in a month. Can you describe its broad outline and future plans?

[Fahd] I believe the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has passed its hardest phase since World War II, hosting [troops from] 33 nations, hundreds of thousands of people, and thousands of aircraft and tanks. This carried many responsibilities, but we have not hesitated to meet them. Our main responsibility was financial. Previously, the Kingdom had ample resources. May God grant wealth to all. We have not been stingy. Neither were they. [not further specified] They sent their troops, and we had to do our bit. When it comes to war you do not ask: How much does this machine cost and how should we bid to commission it? Questions like these are not for wartime. The Kingdom picked up many bills. We need not bother about the details or cost of war but it was considerable. There were other commitments. We had to prepare the Saudi Army, Air Force, and military forces, and stock supplies for the people if the war was to last two or three years. We did. Not once did anyone who came to Saudi Arabia or any Saudi complain of shortages or lack of security, thank God. Security was quite stable. I do not say this because I am responsible for the Kingdom. World media said it, and those who came to Saudi Arabia testified that it is different to what they imagined. It is a stable country and it was able to sustain all the forces assembled on its land. We bore heavy expenditure. For those who helped Saudi Arabia, we did no accounting or auditing. We spent money day and night and the cost was immense. That cannot be denied. We spent on food and drink, military equipment, transport, etc. The Kingdom had to.

The costs were not meager, so the Kingdom borrowed locally and maybe abroad. Throughout, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not flout it financial standards. Its currency is covered 100 percent. That has not changed. Our currency is sound, covered by major world currencies, and there is no need to worry. The Kingdom's current income is good, and it is hoped that within the next two or three years Saudi Arabia can meet any external liabilities. Projects established by the competent ministries and government departments, even those started 10 years ago or more... [sentence left incomplete] We have a huge, mind-boggling array of projects in industry and social services as well as roads, electricity, tunnels, and water.

We started our social programs when we had no problems. As you may know, we initiated many funds to finance agriculture, industry, and construction. We were the first country in the world to distribute free land, giving the title holder an interest-free loan of more than 20 million rials. We paid farmers well for their crops. Palm trees, hotels and urban development projects were treated the same way. The government grants long-term loans for what we call popular housing, actually very decent housing. The government loans are repayable over 25 years, which I do not think exists anywhere else.

[Nizam-al-Din] No. It does not.

[Fahd] If the owner wishes to sell his property he can, but he should pay back the government. Repayment is interest free over 25 years. I do not think this is unfair.

Likewise, industry. The state provides funds without interest, which industry repays within 10 years. The state provides citizens the basis, such as agricultural land or land for building and so forth, free. It also provides funds for building or agriculture, which the citizen repays without interest to the state treasury after several years. I do not think this happens anywhere else. Anyone visiting Saudi Arabian cities can hardly imagine that this

has happened in a few years. Can you imagine that water has been brought from the Red Sea, through the 'Asir mountains, over 3,500km, to cities without water in mountainous areas. The Red Sea water was brought to Mecca, al-Ta'if, and Madina, and the eastern and central areas are now being supplied by water from the sea. Despite Saudi Arabia having enough water underground for more than 200 years, it perhaps desalinates more water than anyone else. We prefer to take water from the sea and desalinate, keeping the underground water, because no one knows what will happen.

Before the Iraq problem, debts were limited. The Saudi Arabian kingdom was still spending on the war for nine months afterward. This is not something small. War spending has no limit, so Saudi Arabia incurred foreign and local debts. I can say one thing: Approved projects continued unhampered, and this year some very big projects begun one or two years ago will continue without a break. The funds allocated will be available. As you know, available funds are important, and funds worth thousands of millions [as heard] will be available. We have no problem. One cannot say that there is no liquidity, and that the funds borrowed by the Saudi Arabian kingdom will affect its projects. They will not. But we are in debt. It is not strange for a state to be in debt in extraordinary circumstances. To whom are we in debt? Some 33 states sent their youths, troops, tanks, and aircraft. I think that what the Saudi Arabian Kingdom undertook was historic. Nevertheless, the citizen was not affected. Banks empty when wars break out, and every citizen with money in the bank will withdraw it and take it abroad because he is afraid. We did not freeze Saudis' or others' funds. The people were left free to do as they wished. They were free to import, export, and manage their capital. Nothing was taken out. In war's first week or two people watch closely to see whether the state will impose controls on capital and funds. The state did not, nor did it intervene in the banking system, because banks are truly free. The state does not inquire how much money there is in a bank, to whom the account belongs, and so on. There is banking freedom and freedom of transaction. The state does not interfere, although it had to borrow from foreign and local banks—more locally—and began repaying them this year. I think the debt will be settled within two or three years. No projects will be affected, and we will not resort to cuts. But we will give priority to repaying the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's debts.

[Nizam-al-Din] Naturally, this applies to strengthening the Kingdom's defense capability?

[Fahd] I say that the defense capability is the basis. No country has a credible defense capability. If a country has a force larger than its size and capability it becomes a burden. Who are you fighting? Can you fight anyone? No. But you want to defend yourself. You need top-notch defense capability, and the Saudi forces and Saudi Air Force have shown they are up to the level of events.

We had a problem with a neighbor; I believe it was isolated and will not be repeated. To prevent any other aggression, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will develop its air, naval, and ground forces according to its capability, to stand up against any aggressor. If the aggressor is stronger, all power is in God's hands. I believe the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's force will be respected by others. We are a country which is not aggressive toward anyone, but self- defense is a legitimate right.

[Nizam-al-Din] Have you formed the Shura [consultative] council?

[Fahd] Yes. We are on the threshold of declaring the formation of the organizations you have mentioned, the Shura Council, basic system of government, and the district system. I believe these will materialize in one or one-and-a-half months.

[Nizam-al-Din] A scientific question from the RTL station, covering Germany and the Netherlands. What programs have you prepared to remedy the environmental damages of the Gulf War, and how can German companies and experts contribute?

[Fahd] Germany has long experience in all fields. Contacts have been held with several states, especially Gulf states, to deal with problems, such as oil polluting the sea. Kuwait has faced such problems. We sometimes hear of an oil tanker exploding somewhere at sea. The world is ahead us in fighting polluted shores. I cannot give figures or details, but we are still studying how to prepare for the future. There is no problem now. Oil pollution has not harmed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but we must prepare in case something happens. We must be ready and equipped to fight such pollution. To achieve the desired result we must seek international experts, and I believe the Germans have the best in the field. We have always sought German assistance in any field, though sometimes they could not act because of commitments to other states. I think the German commitment to other international obligations has ended. We hope that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will cooperate with Germany on technology and in other fields. We still need to learn a lot before we reach the developing world's levels.

[Nizam-al-Din] While I have been in the Kingdom I have noticed there are several Arab and Islamic delegations, one of which was the Afghan mujahidin delegation on its way to Moscow. We all know that the Kingdom has supported the mujahidin and is now working to find a peaceful solution to save this Islamic country. Can we learn about some of the solution's aspects?

[Fahd] Since the Afghan problem began, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has supported the displaced Afghan people, who are known to have been treated unjustly. The Kingdom has been the only state to stand on the Afghan people's side. The United States has had a clear stand identical to Saudi Arabia's, and the two have helped the Afghan people, unjustly displaced from their homeland by another state, the Soviet Union. The Afghans persevered and struggled, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States providing all resources.

It was not to spite the Soviet Union but to help a displaced people. I wish current events in the Soviet Union had happened before, then we would not have had to do this and these events would not have happened. Without Saudi Arabian and the United States' help, the Afghan people could not have fought for so many years. For the first time, we see Afghan leaders visiting the Soviet Union, where they are being received as heroes.

I believe that this shows the Afghan people are moving toward their objective of living in a free and independent Afghanistan, where no one but the people can run their own affairs. When they realize this objective—and they will, God willing—matters will be left to the Afghan leaders. We hope harmony will prevail, because experience has taught them that rallying around the leaders brings victory.

Our relations with them are fraternal. We never try to boast about our generosity because we believe that it is our duty. The Saudi Government's relations with the Afghan people and leaders are also good. Do not forget what the Saudi people have done, donating and giving invaluable assistance. They were prompted by Islamic motives and the desire to uphold right. We hope the tour by some Afghan leaders, to Moscow, will help talks between the countries produce logical and reasonable results.

[Nizam-al-Din] Let me ask you to address two messages. The first, from a man with your wisdom, to Saudi and Arab young men and women on looking to the future and reality.

[Fahd] We are proud of our young Arab men. I believe that the Arab nation's youth ...[changes thought] ... Now that all Arab states are independent [sentence incomplete as heard]. You know that Arab states were occupied until recently, and occupation can never be in the citizen's interest. Occupiers look after their own interests, ignoring the citizens'. They utilize a country's resources, without benefiting the Arab citizen. All Arab states are now independent, praise the Almighty. We are done with imperialism. We must cover a long distance if we are to cope with current events. Nobody can say that it is enough to graduate university and rise to expert level. No. I believe that education is undoubtedly the foundation, from kindergarden through primary and secondary stages to university and higher education. I am talking about the Saudi Kingdom. Some 28 years ago I had the honor of serving as education minister. Then there were no more than 33,000 students in the Kingdom. The state set about promoting education in cities, villages, rural areas, and all over, so that now we have seven full universities and tens of colleges with more than 2.7 million students in the primary, secondary, and university stages, and in scientific and military institutes. Looking at the figures, we see that educational development is high. We also send students to study in Europe and America. Secondary school graduates total no less than 13,000-15,000. Where we had only one university we now have seven full universities and scores of colleges. Scientifically speaking, I know that boys and girls in Saudi Arabia are very well- cultured and are very knowledgeable and aware. Some Arab states were ahead of us in introducing education. What is required of our youth is to hold on to their Islamic creed.

[Nizam-al-Din] Will you address a final messsage to Arab communities' members across the MBC station, which seeks to link expatriates to their homelands?

[Fahd] Some Arab communities in Europe are perhaps compelled to live there because their countries have problems. I believe that this problem will eventually be solved. There are other expatriates who live abroad permanently. I hope the Arab nation's sons living in Europe, America, or South America, will not cut their links with their homelands. They must maintain them. I believe that telecommunications have developed enough to enable every man to communicate with his home country on the same day, or the next day at most. Contacts with homelands, families, relatives, and acquaintances should not be severed, nor should they lose their Arab nature. If there are long breaks in contacts they will not easily understand their own homeland. Some people go to America, Europe, or South America and stay there for 20 or 30 years without communicating with their roots. I do not believe they can understand their own motherland's people, because the education they get responds to the environment in which they live.

Keeping in touch with their countries is necessary. Communicating with their relatives is of great advantage to them. Perhaps their countries will benefit from them and from their industrial, agricultural, and scientific expertise. Our Arab youth must pursue this course.

[Nizam-al-Din] Thank you, custodian of the two holy mosques. We pray to God to keep you for your Arab and Islamic nation.

[Fahd] I hope MBC, which has started impressively, will develop, benefiting the Arab nation religiously, scientifically, and culturally. MBC is now being received very well. We hope it will cover other areas, benefiting Arab communities.

According to what I have heard, the Arab communities in Germany, France, Britain, other European countries, and the Arab Maghreb are satisfied that they can now view an independent Arabic television station, broadcasting scientific, literary, and political news. It broadcasts useful, pleasing programs with nothing immoral; an MBC principle. We wish you success and pray to God to grant it. We hope that the station will develop for better each year, God willing.

UK Minister's Remarks on Aga Khan Visit Assailed

JN1811204491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Lynda Chalker, British minister for so-called overseas development, made statements to reporters in Geneva on Thursday, 14 November. She impudently talked about Iraq and about the visit to Baghdad by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive representative of the UN secretary general, which will begin Tuesday 19 November 1991.

Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, commented on the statements of the British minister as follows:

We found nothing new in the statements of the British minister; she is used to such demagogic statements and insolent positions. The British minister used this method of extortion to cover her true political intentions. She tried to blackmail Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. She attacked him in her statements on 12 November, and then tried to appease him on 14 November. In both cases, she does not care for Sadruddin Aga Khan except inasmuch as he responds to British blackmail and to the suspect political purposes which the British minister sought to promote in her demagogic statements.

Mr. al-Sahhaf added: The British minister appeared before the journalists as the master who tells others what they have to do. She dictated what Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan should do when he comes to Baghdad.

The British minister, he said, decided that Sadruddin Aga Khan has to make the Iraqis abandon the country's sovereignty and independence, accept Resolution 706, allow foreigners to interfere in their internal affairs, and mortgage Iraq's wealth and destiny to foreign forces.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf added: In her statements, British Minister Lynda Chalker slipped to a cheap level when she started shedding crocodile tears for Iraq and the people of Iraq, and specifying who is fit to rule Iraq and who is not, as if she wants to restore the spiteful British mandate and colonization to Iraq.

Concluding his statement, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: We strongly denounce the British minister's statements and behavior, and we view them as a major offense to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and his visit to Baghdad. This visit came at the request of Prince Sadruddin in his capacity as the executive representative of the UN secretary general and the official in charge of the aid program that the United Nations pledged to present to Iraq. This is a very mediocre program, which contributes only a very small portion—not more than 10 percent—of Iraq's urgent food, medicine, and other basic needs. He indicated that this is acknowledged by those who work on this.

He added: Hence, the British minister's remarks sound like empty rhetoric aimed at giving an inaccurate picture of and an unreal size to this program as a means to justify the unjust and inapplicable Resolution 706.

He explained that Iraq made essential remarks, which expose this unjust resolution and unveil the intentions of those standing behind it. At any rate, the British minister's remarks have actually contributed to exposing the evil intentions of those who drafted this resolution.

U.S. Engineer Released to International Red Cross

JN1811200191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—U.S. national Gordon Cordes, who illegally entered Iraqi territory on 12 November, was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Baghdad today.

In a meeting with correspondents of foreign press agencies, television networks, and INA, he praised the good treatment he received from Iraqi authorities throughout his detention in Iraq.

The U.S. citizen, who works with the U.S. forces as a civil engineer, was captured while examining the road between the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. He was taken by an Iraqi border control post.

Cordes categorically denied that he was beaten or ill treated. He said the Iraqi authorities treated him normally and without any pressure or [word indistinct]. He paid tribute to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the assistance it extended to him.

The American national Cordes, 50, illegally and illegitimately entered Iraq. As usual, the competent Iraqi authorities handed him over to the Red Crescent Society, which turned him over to the ICRC, which will transfer him to his country.

Regime Forces 'Bombard' Opposition Areas

LD1811173491 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said Monday that the Iraqi regime continues to bombard the southern marshlands and has dispatched more troops and military equipment to the Arab populated south.

A SAIRI spokesman said the troop buildup around the marshlands where thousands of people have taken refuge is "evidence of a planned mass killing by the regime."

The main victims of the bombardment are children, women and elderly people, he said and appealed to the United Nations secretary-general and human rights organizations to "do something to prevent unwarranted bloodshed in Iraq."

According to the SAIRI spokesman, people in southern Iraq have a hard time to cope with even the basic necessities of daily life including basic medical needs.

In March this year, hundreds of thousands of Shiite Arabs were slaughtered and the holy shrines in Najaf and Karbala' desecrated by the Republican Guards to put down the mass uprising in Iraq.

In related news from Khorramshahr Monday smoke welling up to the sky, from burning oil installations in Iraq, was seen this side of the Iran-Iraq border.

A few days ago there was evidence of a fire at the petrochemical plant of Basra as large columns of smoke billowed up and were seen across the border near Iran's Persian Gulf port of Khorramshahr.

Informed sources say that the fires in Iraq possibly indicate clashes of the people with the Ba'thist forces in fresh surge of internal unrest.

Kurdish Positions Attacked

NC191134091 Paris AFP in English 1222 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Ankara, 19 Nov (AFP)—Iraqi troops, backed by helicopter gunships and artillery, attacked positions held by Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq, killing at least three Kurdish fighters and wounding 30 on Monday, a Kurdish guerrilla source said here Tuesday.

Serchil Kazas, a spokesman for the Kurdish Patriotic Union, said the guerrillas suffered their casualties in fighting Monday evening near Nawjoul village in the northeastern Irbil region.

The guerrillas fought off an Iraqi army attack before being attacked by helicopters and artillery, he said.

He did not confirm the deaths of 10 other Kurdish guerrillas, reported killed in fighting over the weekend in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah regions.

The clashes occurred after the guerrillas refused to withdraw from main population centers in northern Iraq, Kurdish sources have said.

According to the guerrilla sources, President Saddam Husayn made the withdrawal a condition for lifting a food blockade in Kurdistan. However Baghdad has denied the existence of any such economic blockade.

Baghdad's demand for the evacuation of Kurdish fighters followed talks last week with representatives of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front (FKI), a coalition of eight Kurdish parties.

Agreement Reached To End Siege

LD1811171791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan [PUK] announced today that a delegation representing the Kurds and Iraqi officials reached agreement over ending the economic siege by the Iraqi regime against Iraqi Kurdistan and on returning centers of government to the towns in the region. According to PUK radio, in order to control the situation in the towns of northern Iraq, Kurdish security forces will cooperate with Iraqi police. Talks between the Kurds and Iraqi officials will continue, according to the radio. [passage omitted]

Laws Limiting Citizens' Freedoms Under Review

JN1811190691 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 18, INA—Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki stated that four committees were engaged in reconsidering and reviewing exceptional laws at the instructions of President Saddam Husayn.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper today quoted the minister as saying that laws under consideration were those limiting the freedoms of citizens or related to economic aspects.

The minister said that the committees had reconsidered 30 decisions and several regulations and instructions with the object of easing measures and facilitating the routine and work dealings of the citizens.

He further said that the committees would soon finish their tasks and that most of the laws that were issued during exceptional circumstances would be rescinded especially those related to the source of living of the citizens and others to security affairs.

Article Urges Resumed Publication of BABIL

JN1811174291 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 91 p 8

[Signed article under the pen name Abu-al-Tayyib: "Awaiting BABIL"]

[Text] We need many more papers than we presently have in a country like Iraq, whose clay tablets witnessed the first inscriptions of mankind, and where in modern history leader Saddam Husayn obliterated a disease called illiteracy, spread knowledge among people, and gave every hand a pen; in this country where stone presses printed the first pages of the modern newspaper and where man inscribed on papyrus the labors of his brain. Truly, we are under a siege which gives us little room for expansion, but we had no excuse in the past, when we could have had 40 instead of four papers. Therefore, when one of the five sisters disappear, and when you open your eyes every morning to see that one of the five sisters is not there, the entire homeland becomes worried. We do not only need the fifth sister, but we need many other sisters. Why should anyone not miss the fifth sister? Is not it the one that brought the unfamiliar to the Iraqi press? Is not it the one that said what others did not? Is not it the one whose pages were vivid with a youthful, adventurous, and daring spirit? Is

not it the one that gained a big name within a short period of time? Is not it the one that was a faster news carrier than others?

After this, we are awaiting the BABIL newspaper, which knocked on doors that others would not even have dared take the streets leading to them. It is the paper which, upon ceasing publication, entrusted other papers to love the people and to be close to their issues as it did. The homeland is awaiting the fifth sister, without which spirits will be dull and creativity will slumber. The door will remain open in the hope that BABIL will reappear.

Transport Minister To Attend Meeting in Libya

JN1911105491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0852 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Minister of Transport and Communications 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini left for Libya this morning to participate in meetings of the seventh session of the Arab Transport Ministers' Council due to start in Tripoli, Libya on Friday [22 November].

In a statement to INA, the minister said that the conferees will discuss several issues related to enhancing prospects for cooperation among Arab states in the fields of transport, communications, and railroads over two days.

The minister said that Iraq had drawn up a working paper urging Arab transport ministers to use all available means to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, including the air, land, and naval embargo, because the reasons for imposing the blockade no longer exist after Iraq complied with all the international obligations enshrined in UN Security Council resolutions.

Al-Ma'ini said that the paper stressed the need to expedite the lifting of the air embargo, as this would fall in line with the provisions and principles contained in the international civil aviation agreement signed in Chicago in 1944, which provides for the free operation and lifting of air restrictions imposed on world countries.

The minister pointed out that Iraq will demand the issuance of a directive demanding the opening of an international railway linking Iraq to the outside world via Syria. He stated that Iraq is facing a serious shortage of spare parts for its means of communications, since their receipt has been halted as a result of the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Meetings of the seventh session of the Arab Transport Ministers' Council will be preceded by a meeting of the Council's Executive Bureau during 20-21 November to discuss and draft the decisions and recommendations to be submitted to the council for endorsement.

Delegation Visits Arab Maghreb To 'Bolster' Ties

JN1811183291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—A National Assembly delegation left for Morocco today in the first leg of a several-day tour that will take it also to Libya and Algeria. The delegation will hold parliamentary talks to bolster fraternal relations with the three Arab countries.

Mr. Fa'iq Makki Ahmad, head of the delegation and chairman of the Finance and Planning Committee of the assembly, said the team will hold several meetings and exchange views with the Arab Maghreb parliaments on Arab issues and bilateral ties.

The delegation will also explain the implications of the 30-state aggression and the continued economic blockade against Iraq and its people. It will explain the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of this blockade and urge effective moves to break it by the Arab countries and to foil the objectives of the aggression by the United States and its allies and their flagrant attempt to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs under the pretext of UN resolutions.

Al-Zubaydi Orders New Border Complex at Tirbil

JN1811190491 Baghdad INA in English 1720 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 18, INA—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has instructed the construction of a new border complex in the Tirbil border point along the Iraqi-Jordanian borders.

The Ministry of Housing and Construction will undertake the building of the new complex within a period of five months and would include halls, restaurants, living quarters for officials there and other services centers to facilitate the movement of travellers.

Cancellation Rumors Aggravate 100-Dinar Problem

NC1711154791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The problem of dealing with the Iraqi banknotes the regime printed without any (?assets) persists with no sign of solution. This problem was aggravated when the people heard that the regime will cancel the 100-dinar bill, which it so wrongly printed to make do during the international boycott.

On Tuesday [12 November] evening, the tyrant's radio station broadcast a statement by an Iraqi Central Bank official denying this report. In fact, he threatened to punish anyone who refuses to use these banknotes or [words indistinct].

Assyrian Democratic Group on Role in Opposition

NC1611135391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1635 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Under the title "Our Movement in The Committee of Joint Action," the newspaper (BAHRA), organ of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, published an article in its October issue which said:

Our movement became a member of the Committee of Joint Action of the Iraqi opposition forces in July in keeping with the national line in which our Assyrian Democratic Movement believes. These forces include the Iraqi national movement's groups with their various ideological and political inclinations. Our representatives began participating in the committee's meetings and activities on 30 July.

Our movement's membership in the committee of joint action was in line with its standing on the national arena, including its participation in the Iraqi Opposition Conference in Beirut in March and in other national activities. This includes activities such as the valiant March uprising, as well as its accession to the membership of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front and its joint struggle with the front's groups for democracy for Iraq and real autonomy. This is in addition to our movement's role in the ranks of our Assyrian people in mobilizing these ranks for the national struggle.

By its slogan "A Free Democratic Iraq and Recognition of the Assyrian National Existence," the movement expresses its faith in the close tie between the legitimate national rights of our Assyrian people and the issue of establishing democracy in the homeland in a manner that ensures freedom, equality, and social justice for all classes of the Iraqi people and their fraternal nationalities.

Review of UN Special Commission Practices Urged

JN1911115991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1116 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The United Nations, 19 Nov (INA)—Iraq has urged the United Nations to reconsider many of the practices of the Special Commission and inspection teams, which are not enshrined in the provisions of Resolution 687, but which rather serve evil U.S. objectives.

Iraq affirmed that this is a fateful challenge that has to be met courageously by the United Nations to safeguard its independence, principles, and the values it professes to cherish.

An INA correspondent in New York said that this came in a letter sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations. The text of the letter was published in New York yesterday.

The letter contains the text of statements made to the French newspaper LIBERATION by French expert Jean Patrick Fudnan, a member of the international inspection teams that visited Iraq.

In his statements, the French expert said that the conduct of some American members of the inspection team surprised him. It seems that they are members of the CIA, working for that intelligence service rather than the United Nations, he noted.

Expert Fudnan indicated that these Americans provoked Iraqi authorities, and that their task was to collect information. The U.S. inspectors, he noted, "attempted to bring about a confrontation with the Iraqi troops in the al-Fallujah incident. Indeed, they wished that a team member would be killed to justify U.S. intervention in Iraq."

In its letter, Iraq said that the revelations made by the French expert are only a part of the U.S. practices, which use the Special Commission and the United Nations as a cover to realize their objectives of aggression against the Iraqi people and to maintain the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. He added that maintaining silence on these U.S. practices will harm the credibility of the United Nations and its role as defined in the UN Charter.

'Categorical Rejection' of Resolution 706 Reiterated

JN1811164891 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GM T 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 18, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, reiterated Iraq's categorical rejection of Resolution No. 706.

In its editorial for today, the daily criticized attempts by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance to drive the resolution into the forefront of events, despite the increasing humanitarian calls all over the world for lifting the economic sanctions unjustly imposed on the people of Iraq.

The daily added that Resolution 706, proposed by France and adopted by the United States, had been worded in such a way that would realize multiple goals at a time, first and foremost, containing the world pressure which exposed the true nature of the human rights slogans Bush claimed to defend, and secondly, placing Iraq under mandate with the aim of controlling its oil riches and plundering proceeds of oil sales under cover of war reperations.

It confirmed that a profound look at the items of that dubious resolution could lead to the conclusion that the United States was trying to achieve what it failed to attain whether during the brutal military aggression or its subsequent chapters of treason in an attempt to dismember Iraq's national and geographic unity and confiscate its independent political decision.

The paper expressed confidence that the people of Iraq would not give up its sovereignty and dignity for a handful of wheat donated by the enemies of nation and humanity.

Mass Graves Found in Dhi Qar, Other Areas

JN1811092491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Dhi Qar, Southern Iraq, 18 Nov (INA)—Citizens from Dhi Qar Governorate have discovered a mass grave for Iraqi soldiers, who were buried alive by U.S. soldiers.

A correspondent for AL-THAWRAH newspaper in al-Nasiriyah reported today that the grave is located 60 km south of al-Nasiriyah City near Abu-Ghar area. During their presence in the area, U.S. and Atlantic forces carried out savage deeds against Iraqi soldiers such as burying them alive and arresting them, including defenseless civilians.

The colonel commander of al-Nasiriyah has confirmed that another burial ground was also discovered. He noted that the area is planted with mines and that a working team is currently clearing the mines around the place so as to dig up the remains of soldiers and hand them over to their families.

He said that there are other graves scattered on the fringes of the desert near a bunker for soldiers. This has been confirmed by bedouin, nomads and herdsmen.

Bush 'Claims' of Cease-Fire Violation Criticized

JN1811165091 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 18, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, today confirmed that the people of Iraq, who faced all forms of danger and sacrificed life and property in defence of their land against a vast aggression, had realized what responsibility they should bear and what test they should pass.

Commenting on a recent U.S. congressional session, the daily criticized President Bush's claims that Iraq was not committed to the ceasefire agreement and that it continued its incursions on Kuwait. It expressed wonder at the U.S. president's alleged concerns over the Iraqi Government's attempt to protect its citizens from excesses of some irresponsible armed Turks.

The daily said whenever the time of rediscussing the economic sanctions resolutions drew nearer, Bush and his allies resorted to fabricated pretexts to justify their calls for prolonging the sanctions, violating by that the simplest humanitarian rules.

Nations Urged To Confront U.S. 'Aggression'

JN1911102891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0818 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the injustice and wrong done to Iraq, not to mention the unjust blockade imposed on it, will threaten other countries unless the countries marked by the U.S. Administration as potential targets for aggression, turn themselves into countries poised for confronting the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic aggression.

In an article published today, entitled "Let Us Put an End to U.S. Fabrications," the paper adds: The Bush administration has made a habit of fabricating excuses to aggress upon sovereign Third World states, particularly after it deluded itself into believing that the balance of power has tilted in its favor. That is why it launched an aggression on Grenada, and another against Panama. However, the immensity of its anti-Iraq aggression surpassed all expectations. It exploited all of its resources and mobilized armies in an attempt to kill the Iraqi and Arab will.

The paper recalls Iraq's previous predictions when it said that the anti-Iraq aggression was only the first chapter in a large-scale aggression targeting the Arab nation. Furthermore, the paper notes, Iraq said that once it is dealt with in isolation from other Arab countries, the other Arab countries will be taken one by one. The paper points out that the U.S. Administration is currently manufacturing numerous fabrications to justify an aggression against Libya, because Libya has begun to pursue an independent approach aimed at realizing its regional and pan-Arab interests, especially after the inauguration of the "Great River", which will turn its desert into green gardens.

AL-JUMHURIYAH wonders: Has Libya also disturbed regional peace? This is the pretext frequently advanced by the United States. Or were the threats prompted by the fact that Libya was the second after Iraq to say "no" to U.S. aggressiveness and U.S. terrorism?

Concluding its article, the paper urges the countries that intend to confront imperialist aggression to work hand in hand with Iraq to bring an end to what the U.S. Administration calls "the new world order," which would secure for the United States complete and total hegemony on the world resources. Such cooperation, the paper maintains, would enable these countries to serve as a new international polarization center that could prompt Europe and Germany in particular to cooperate and deal on equal footing with the Third World countries to help safeguard the world balance of power and realize justice in its proper human context.

'Experts'—Jibril Involved in Pan Am Explosion

TA1811175391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov 91 p A1

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Israel continues to maintain that terrorists belonging to Ahmad Jibril's organization are responsible for the death of over 270 passengers on the U.S. aircraft, despite the detailed U.S. charges about Libya's involvement in the Pan Am explosion.

It is clear that Arab terrorists were involved in the attack, but the details of the U.S. disclosure about Libya's responsibility do not impress the Israeli experts. It is reasonable that the Libyans were responsible for the explosion of the French aircraft, which took place eight months after the Pan Am incident. The experts claim that U.S. disclosures made public so far contain nothing new to show that everything proved about Jibril's ties with the affair are incorrect.

The view in Israel is that until new additional proof is uncovered beyond that found in the indictment against the two Libyan intelligence officers, Israel will not change its version about Jibril's role. The reports that the Americans transmitted to Israel with information about their investigation, before making it public, are imprecise. Only the details of the indictment against the Libyan intelligence officers were handed over to Israel on the day they were published or a day before.

An analysis of the charge sheet shows that one of the pieces of evidence on which the Americans base themselves is the detonator used to operate the booby-trapped suitcase in the aircraft. This is a sophisticated Swiss-made detonator specially ordered for the Libyan Army. Israel claims that while it is true that the Libyans ordered such detonators, the view even before the plane incident was that they had handed some over to other parties. Such detonators were first discovered in Senegal and not in Libya. It is not inconceivable that such detonators were also handed over to Jibril's organization.

Another piece of U.S. evidence is that a shirt made and bought in Malta, where Libyan intelligence is active, was found among the remains of the aircraft. Israel recalls that several months ago that shirt was said to have belonged to a Palestinian terrorist called Muhammad Abu-Taliq, who is in a Swedish jail.

These details alone are not enough to convict Libyan intelligence officers of the Pan Am explosion, according to the Israeli evaluation. That is not the case with the Libyan connection to the explosion of the French plane. The evaluation therefore is that the Americans have an intelligence source they are unprepared to discuss and he is the one who gave them the story. It should be noted that there is a danger that the aim of stories by defectors and agents—like the details attributed to the Iraqi defector, who dealt with the production of nuclear arms in his country—could be deliberate disinformation.

The professional evaluation in Israel is that in December 1988, on the eve of the Pan Am explosion, several members of Ahmad Jibril's people with experience in blowing up aircraft, gathered in Frankfurt. They had suitable equipment, including five special detonators. Four of these detonators were later found while the missing detonator was most likely used to blow up the plane.

Leaders Comment on Release of Waite, Sutherland

Shamir: No Lebanese Prisoners To Be Freed

TA1911052791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir has welcomed the release of the American and British hostages in Lebanon. He said, however, that Israel would not release more Lebanese prisoners until Israel's missing servicemen were returned home. Shamir was speaking at a press conference in Los Angeles. He said Syria's position at the outset of peace talks was aggressive and cruel, showing to the world that Damascus is not interested in peace. The prime minister said he hopes the United States will be an honest broker in the peace process.

One of Israel's hostage negotiators, Attorney Uri Slonim, says Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland were released without Israeli involvement. He said contacts were continuing to gain the release of Israel's missing servicemen. Slonim said Israel is still insisting on getting a sign of life from Ron Arad and other POW's.

Israel's chief hostage negotiator, Uri Lubrani, is currently in the United States on a lecture tour. [passage omitted]

Arens on Fate of Israeli MIA's, POW's

TA1911064291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Shalom and good morning.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Zohar] Is Israel still in the hostage business? Western hostages are being released, whereas at home we have the feeling that there is no news.

[Arens] First of all, allow me to correct you: I would not say that Israel is not happy. We are happy whenever hostages are released. These men were held there in captivity under extremely difficult conditions for lengthy periods of time, and often their families did not even know whether they were alive. So we, like the rest of the world and the hostages' relatives, are pleased. Naturally, though, our concern focuses on our own POW's and MIA's.

[Zohar] No doubt and I accept your correction. Still, regarding that concern: Are we involved in these negotiations?

[Arens] We maintain contacts with the UN secretary general and his assistants and we understand that the efforts he has been exerting over the past few weeks are aimed at bringing about the release of all the hostages, all the POW's and MIA's, including our own men.

[Dan] Nevertheless, would you say that there is some disappointment with his activity?

[Arens] I would not say there is disappointment with his activity; there is disappointment each day as we see that none of our POW's or MIA's are released.

[Dan] Mr. Arens, could we find ourselves in a situation in which all the Western hostages are released while we are left with our tongues hanging out and nothing in our hands? Is this possible?

[Arens] If you ask me hypothetically whether this could happen, I presume it can.

[Dan] Is this what will actually happen? We have, after all, already heard that the three or five remaining hostages will be released shortly, while we cannot see similar progress where our men are concerned.

[Arens] First of all, I suggest that we emphasize that we are not presenting a condition that we do not want hostages to be released as long as our POW's and MIA's remain in captivity. This is not our position. We expect, and we furthermore have grounds to believe, that the UN secretary general will take action to obtain the release of all of them, including our POW's and MIA's.

[Zohar] One of the rules of this game—so we hope, at least—is that even though progress is slow, when it is finally made, the parties stand by their word. Have we reached a stage in which it is possible to check whether one party or another has abided by its pledge? In other words, has Hizballah been true to its promises to Israel?

[Arens] It is difficult for me to talk about Hizballah commitments to Israel. There is a pledge by the UN secretary general to do his best to bring about the release of our men as well. We know whom he must deal with and we know that this is a mission that is not easy, so that I believe it is a little premature at this stage to criticize him.

[Zohar] Would the impression, created by public announcements, be correct that two simultaneous sets of negotiations are under way: one over the Western hostages, namely those from the United States and Britain; and another over the Israeli POW's and MIA's?

[Arens] To the best of my knowledge, the UN secretary general has not been conducting a two-channel dialogue over these issues.

[Zohar] How do you explain the fact that while Israel seemingly has something to offer, meaning Shaykh 'Ubayd and the rest of the Shiite detainees whom we hold, the United States, which has no detainees or prisoners to exchange, is the one to get its men released?

[Dan] To put it a little differently, how are things being done without our help?

[Arens] I think that it is not too difficult to explain this, considering the people who are holding the hostages, POW's, and MIA's. Their attitude toward Israel is self-explanatory; it is well known.

[Zohar] Nevertheless, they took hostages and held them for many years, and this includes even Terry Waite, a cleric. My question is: What has changed there that has not changed here?

[Arens] I do not think anything has changed there regarding the hostility they feel toward the Western countries or the crazy acts they committed in capturing and holding the hostages. I believe I would not be doing the truth an injustice by saying that their hatred toward Israel is even greater.

[Dan] Mr. Arens, let us rephrase the question: We know that any statement or discussion of the matter is very sensitive. Still, could you tell us whether any progress at all has been made with respect to our POW's and MIA's?

[Arens] I will be able to announce progress only once we have learned something about our men that was not known before.

[Dan] And no such information has come recently?

[Arens] Unfortunately, no. If we had learned something, we would not have kept it secret.

[Zohar] We usually view the UN secretary general as the one in charge of all these contacts, as the man who assumed personal responsibility for promoting this process; however, he ends his term at the end of this year. What will happen then?

[Arens] First of all, we hope that by then he will have completed the task he has taken upon himself.

[Zohar] Which is to say that you still have hope of this. Could he continue to deal exclusively with this job even later?

[Arens] Look, we have hope regarding our men every day, despite all our frustrations and disappointments.

[Dan] Do we have good reason to be optimistic that Perez de Cuellar will manage to do something for us before he ends his term?

[Arens] I would not like to talk about optimism or pessimism. We have been involved with this issue for so long, the families have been suffering for so many years, that I would not like to raise too many hopes or let their hearts sink unnecessarily. As we announced long ago, we

are working jointly with the UN secretary general in the hope that he will complete this job before he ends his term.

[Zohar] You mentioned the families' difficulties, but this is no doubt coupled with the concern felt by the political echelon involved in the negotiations. Could you tell us something about the demands raised in the negotiations? Are these normal negotiations? We understand that Hizballah's demands are actually unchanged, yet we have received none of the information we are demanding about navigator Ron Arad or the bodies of Alshekh and Fink.

[Arens] Regarding the bodies, we do have information, although we do not have the remains. Of course, in the end we want the bodies returned for burial in Israel.

[Zohar] The question is whether the requirement in these negotiations is only the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd or whether this is compounded by political or security demands, such as an Israeli withdrawal from the security zone?

[Arens] No, no. At this stage, in fact, no detailed negotiations are under way involving demands from the other side which we are not prepared to fulfill. We have in no way reached that stage yet; the matter is in the hands of the UN secretary general. He is the one who is conducting the negotiations, though it is difficult to refer to them as negotiations. We expect results from these contacts.

[Zohar] So do we. Thank you very much, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Thank you.

Levi: Israel Made 'Two Gestures' for Hostages

TA1911092191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi hopes that the international organizations working to obtain the release of POW'S, MIA's, and other hostages will continue their operations evenhandedly until all of them—including, of course, Israel's prisoners—are released. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Levi was speaking to U.S. Republican Party activists visiting Israel. The foreign minister recalled that, for its part, Israel has made two gestures that have helped obtain the release of Western hostages and will not rest until the last of its own prisoners is free. Minister Levi added that Israel is obviously pleased with the release of the Western hostages and congratulates their families.

Security Sources Welcome Release

TA1811183991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Security sources said that Israel welcomes the release of the two hostages in Lebanon. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the sources expressed the hope that the efforts by the UN secretary general to bring about the release of all the hostages would be fruitful and that all, including the Israeli POW's and MIA's, would be freed.

Attorney Advises Against 'Ashrawi-Al-Husayni Trial

TA1811195291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Excerpt] State Attorney Dorit Beinisch has decided to recommend to the attorney general not to put Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni on trial on suspicion of meeting with PLO leaders in Tunis. Our court affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad learned that Mrs. Beinisch studied all the evidence presented to her by the police today and presented a detailed legal opinion to Attorney General Yosef Harish. Justice Ministry sources refused to confirm or deny the report.

Our correspondent points out that the final authority to decide whether to close the file is up to the attorney general and it seems that a decision will be made soon. [passage omitted]

Concern Expressed About U.S. Middle East Moves

TA1711124091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Between Baker, al-Qadhdhafi, and Dr. 'Ashrawi"]

[Text] The two-week period the United States gave the countries of the Middle East, mainly Israel, to try to push the peace process cart forward on their own, ended yesterday. Neither Israel nor the Arabs managed to agree even on the venue for the continuation of the talks. Israel's compromise proposal to hold them in Cyprus was not accepted.

James Baker's mission to China also ended yesterday, whether coincidentally or not. He returns to Washington today empty-handed, and it can be assumed that he will try to make up for his failure in Beijing by restoring momentum to the Middle East peace talks.

Does that mean he will make haste to issue the invitations to the participants of the Madrid conference to present themselves for stage two in Washington?

If he does, it will look like a lack of respect for the Israeli prime minister, since Shamir is in the United States and will arrive in Washington at the end of the week for a meeting with President Bush. Basic courtesy calls on him to hold the invitations up until after the consultations, if only for appearances. The problem is that, just as during the Gulf crisis, Israel is not in a position to urge the United States to show special consideration for it. During the Gulf crisis the United States courted the Arab states, whose participation in the military operation against Iraq was vital to it. Today, , the United States once again needs at least the tacit support of the Arabs,

as it prepares to punish al-Qadhdhafi's Libya for the downing of the Pan Am flight over Scotland.

Mubarak's warning against a unilateral U.S. action did not reduce U.S. dependence on the Arabs; on the contrary, it increased it. Israel, like the English proverb says, should be seen, but not heard.

An example of that treatment was shown over the weekend, when the White House leaked President Bush's concern about reports that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi might be put on trial.

Even if the reports were correct, the best way to deal with them would have been through quiet contacts. The publicity is in fact a reprimand that should have stiffened Israeli backbones. What is of concern is that the Americans are not even worried about such a reaction.

The late Moshe Dayan once said that Israel should be like a wild cat whose behavior is always unpredictable, but which always causes damage even when dealing with bigger and stronger animals than itself.

I believe we have lost that characteristic.

CSFR Trade Minister Arrives To Sign Accord

TA1811114291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Czechoslovakia's Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay has arrived in Israel as the guest of the Trade and Industry Ministry. He is due to sign a commercial agreement with Israel, which is aimed at facilitating the exchange of goods and encouraging cooperation in industry, agriculture, tourism, communications, and technology.

Meets Levi; Signs Accord

TA1911095591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi and Czechoslovakia's Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay signed a commercial agreement in Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that a joint committee will implement the specifics of the agreement and will examine ways to promote bilateral trade.

'Negative' Resolution Feared at Francophone Summit

TA1811090691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Report from Paris by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will visit Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan next month to prepare France's participation in the multilateral stage of the Middle East peace process. He would like to visit Israel in January 1992. For its part, Israel takes a negative view of the stands France has adopted regarding the peace process, according to which the multilateral stage can only take place after real progress has been made in the bilateral stage. Europe is awaiting James Baker, who will try to convene a preliminary forum for the multilateral stage.

Israel is also worried that in their conference in Paris this week, the heads of the Francophone countries may adopt an anti-Israeli resolution, which could hurt the peace process. This stand has been made clear to the French Foreign Ministry. The conference will be attended by the Lebanese president and Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali. President Mubarak will visit Paris tomorrow, where he will meet with President Mitterrand, who is scheduled to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Bulgaria and Romania were allowed to participate in the conference, but Israel's application was rejected. Foreign Minister David Levi had planned to visit Paris next Sunday to attend an Israel Bonds banquet, but it is doubtful that the visit will take place.

Levi Voices Concern Over Arms Supplies to Syria

TA1811173991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Addressing the Knesset plenum today, Foreign Minister David Levi expressed Israel's concern over the reported supply of tanks and other weapons to Syria. Minister Levi was responding to a query by Knesset Member Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino. Our Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] Minister Levi told the Knesset plenum that the reports about a planned arms deal between Syria and the Soviet Union have aroused great concern in Israel. Syria is pursuing contacts to purchase tanks and sophisticated missiles from the PRC, North Korea, and East European countries, he said.

[Levi] The issue was raised by the prime minister in his meeting with President Gorbachev in Madrid on 29 October. Gorbachev's position was that a termination of the arms race calls for the agreement of all the suppliers of arms to the Middle East and that the issue should be discussed by the committee on regional security within the framework of the multilateral talks scheduled to take place between Israel and the Arab countries.

[Kohen] Israel's position, Minister Levi stated, is that all the suppliers of arms to the Middle East are assuming a grave responsibility for any flare-up in the region, such as the Gulf war. Israel makes this position clear in all its contacts with the arm-supplying countries, which maintain diplomatic relations with us, the foreign minister asserted. [end recording]

Research Paper Says Strategic Position Favorable

TA1711103691 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 91 p 7

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Text] "With the possibility of a start to multilateral negotiations in the Middle East, including talks on arms supervision and disarmament, the State of Israel should have a deep interest in reaching supervisory arrangements in the fields of conventional and nonconventional arms." So says a new research paper produced by the Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

The research paper, "Arms Supervision and Control—An Agenda for Israel" by Dr. Shay Feldman, maintains that "Israel's overall strategic situation today is better than any time in the past." That situation, the researcher writes, "might enable Israel to avoid compromises on issues that could endanger its security. It might also reduce the risk that deliberate Israeli concessions might drag Israel into additional unwanted concessions." The most outstanding expression of Israel's strategic advantage, according to the researcher, is the Syrian decision to enter into direct negotiations without preconditions. In the researcher's view, Syria took that step because of Israel's growing deterrent capability.

In the chapter dealing with Israel's future nuclear capability, the researcher sums up: "The Israeli Government will be forced to decide in the near future if—and under what conditions and in what arrangement—it would be prepared to accept President Bush's initiative on a nuclear freeze...whether its clear advantage in the nuclear field does not justify Israel agreeing to freeze the current situation despite the dangers involved in implementing Bush's initiative on the subject."

IDF Shells Lebanese 'Terrorist' Targets

TA1911083991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery fired several dozen shells at terrorist targets north of the security strip in southern Lebanon last night. This was reported to our correspondent Hayim Hecht from UN headquarters.

In the Shiite village of Tayr Dibbah, SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops are continuing to conduct searches and detentions following battles between the Shi'te Amal and Hizballah organizations. Both organizations issued a joint communique this morning calling for an end to the internecine violence in order to concentrate efforts in the fight against the IDF and the SLA.

Sharon Threatens Building Halt in Treasury Dispute

TA1811053891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Report by Tzvi Pantanoiitz]

[Text] Housing Minister Sharon says he will act to stop state-sponsored projects across the country the moment the prime minister returns from the United States unless the Treasury promptly honors all its financial obligations. Sharon said that 18,000 housing units are involved: 7,000 have already been started, and another 11,000 are in the pipeline and due to get under way by the end of this year. The minister voiced his threat at yesterday's Absorption Cabinet meeting, which he chairs. He said all his efforts to reach an understanding with the Treasury on funding pledges have failed. There had been no response from the Treasury.

Sharon last night also raised a political reason for the Treasury's decision. He claims that the Finance Ministry has succumbed to U.S. pressure on government housing plans in the Jerusalem area and in the territories, apart from the programs for the Negev and the Galilee.

Builders subcontracted by the Housing Ministry have been threatening for months to take action, saying they cannot go on building without money. One contractor, fed up with the situation, is taking the matter to court today. He is suing the ministry for reneging on a budget for 100 homes he built under the program to find speedy housing solutions to new immigrants. The contractors warned this morning that if the national building program is halted, the entire economy could be affected. So, in addition to the giant challenge of unemployment, housing is looming as a major problem.

Preparations Made for Transition in Territories

TA1911114091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The defense establishment and the office of the coordinator of government activities in the territories have completed four months of preparatory work in anticipation of the political process and bilateral negotiations. This was announced this morning by a senior security source, who claimed that the idea is to prepare for a settlement pursuant to the Camp David accords, the transition period being five years in accordance with the definitions included in the U.S. invitations to the Madrid conference. The problem that still remains is whether the Palestinians will accept the conclusions of the autonomy talks that ended nearly 10 years ago, as neither they nor the Jordanians were a party to these talks.

Either way, the security source estimates that the Palestinians are not prepared for the bilateral negotiations, mainly because they are engrossed in internal infighting and power struggles between the various political streams and within those streams themselves regarding the issues that will be put on the agenda. Proof of these conflicts can be found almost every day in the East Jerusalem press. Today, too, there were reports about the resignation of another four residents of the territories from their membership in the political committees people have been trying to form since the Madrid conference.

At the same time, let us point out that the defense establishment is somewhat amenable to political information rallies in the territories, which take place almost

every day, as long as they are held within the confines of the law and focus on explaining the negotiations and the peace process. Thus, the Palestinian leaders have won a de facto and unofficial immunity, allowing them political freedom of activity, because they are the representatives in the negotiations with Israel and should be permitted to engage in this kind of political activity without impediment and free of searches of their documents.

West Bank Economy Liberalization Planned

TA1811184191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Liberalization in the economy of Judaea and Samaria: The Civil Administration today made public plans to cut taxes and encourage investment in industry in Judaea and Samaria. Civil Administration head Brigadier General Gadi Zohar gave details to reporters at a briefing in Jerusalem this afternoon. Miryam Herschlag reports:

The staggering unemployment figures for the Israeli economy announced in recent days have a direct bearing on the economy of Arabs in the territories. Brig. Gen. Gadi Zohar sums up the problems.

[Begin Zohar recording] Some 55,000 of the people living in Judaea and Samaria are commuting every day to Israel to work and we cannot be assured and assure them that in the future Israel will be able to support them or to give them—all these 55,000—jobs that they are holding today. We have to give them the opportunity to build their own infrastructure for the future. [end recording]

Unemployment in Judaea and Samaria is currently at 11 to 12 percent, similar to the unemployment rate for Israel, and there is a close connection. The hardest-hit areas in Israel are those which had provided work for Arabs from the territories, that is construction—grinding these days to a virtual halt—and service jobs, which are being filled by Soviet immigrants now flooding the job market. The focus, says Gen. Zohar, must be on creating jobs. He says the West Bank's economy too closely resembles that of a Third World country with too great an emphasis on agriculture. Zohar said the Civil Administration plans to focus on encouraging industry.

[Begin Zohar recording] We think that industry is the most important for the future of the economy in this area, and we decided that we will do what we can in order to support it by exempting the new industry from income tax in the first three years of its activity. [end recording]

The eased taxation is aimed at encouraging investors. Gen. Zohar says he believes investment will come from Palestinians in the territories as well as from Palestinians abroad. In the spirit of liberalization, the lighter taxes also extend to individual income. Civil authorities have revamped the prevailing Jordanian tax laws in Judaea and Samaria, and will cut income tax by 25 percent in 1992.

HADASH Meeting Receives Message From 'Arafat

TA1611122791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation [to the Madrid conference], and the Gaza members of the delegation were the honorary guests of the third HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] conference in Nazareth last night. Knesset Members Yisra'el Qeysar, David Liba'i, Yosi Beilin, 'Uzi Bar'am, Avraham Burg [all Labor], Amnon Rubinstein [Shinuy], and others were other honorary guests.

During the conference, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi read out a congratulatory message from Yasir 'Arafat, in which the PLO leader demanded the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. The message also said that there is now an opportunity to resolve the conflict in direct negotiations that will guarantee regional security and stability. The message added that the PLO, as a party to the Madrid conference, will do its best to realize this goal.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the message received long ovations from the hundreds of conference participants.

Army Approves Regular Family Visits at Jail

TA1611190691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Starting from Monday, the Army will allow regular visits of families of prisoners in the Qezi'ot detention center. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman says the Army will give the Red Cross a list of prisoners eligible for visits and the Red Cross will give the Civil Administration a list of families for approval.

Delegation Head Discusses Second Round of Talks

JN1311080891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 91 pp 1, 18

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the upcoming peace talks, has said that no date has been set yet for the second round of bilateral talks between Arab parties and Israel. He added that the issue is still under discussion by the concerned parties and that no final decision has been reached.

Asked if the conference will convene in Washington as suggested by some news agencies, Dr. al-Majali said: That is one possibility. But nothing has been finalized yet.

Asked if he will soon travel to Washington for that purpose, he said: I will not travel until the place and venue are set. I will attend the conference in any place agreed on by the concerned parties, especially as there is comprehensive and full Arab coordination on all stands.

It is known that Arabs fully reject the convening of any round of talks in the occupied Arab territories.

As for the structure of the committees, Dr. al-Majali said: The cabinet will decide on this. It will form the technical committees soon.

Asked if these will be joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees, al-Majali said that the technical committees will be Jordanian, and the Palestinian side will form its own committees.

Venue Remains 'Ambiguous'

JN1611091091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 91 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The venue and timing for the continuation of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks remained ambiguous Friday as Jordanian officials cast doubt on the validity of reports saying the talks would be held in Washington on Nov. 22.

"True, there was an understanding that the talks would be held in Washington on Nov. 22," said a senior government source, "but I do not see how the date at least can be kept given that the Arabs and Israelis are not yet agreed on the venue and (in light of U.S.) Secretary of State James Baker's engagement over the past two weeks with trips to Asia."

The source did not say where the understanding came from and how it was reached, saying he still could not rule out that the meetings would take place in Washington on the specified date.

The source explained that the disagreement over the venue centred on Israeli demands for Cyprus as a compromise on its earlier demand that the talks rotate between Israel and the concerned Arab countries.

Jordan and Palestinians have supported the idea of Washington, D.C. as a venue for bilateral talks but "Israel wants the talks to be held in Cyprus in close proximity to the Middle East region," the senior government official said.

Although all indications continued to point to Washington as the venue for the Arab-Israeli talks, the official said that the different delegations were "still jockeying over where to meet."

Commenting on the Nov. 22 date for the bilaterals, another source here said that "it was impossible to complete all preparations by that time" and that the earliest possible date for the opening of bilaterals would be after Thanksgiving day on Nov. 28.

"The earliest date would have to be the first Monday after Thanksgiving," a well-informed Jordanian source said.

The senior government source also revealed Friday that changes were being made on the make-up of the Jordanian delegation in preparation for the bilaterals and the final list will be "announced soon."

He did not reveal the number of delegates to be changed or their names but said that the final list will be announced in the next two days, and that the changes were going to "include some diplomats who will return to their bases."

The Jordanian delegation to Madrid included ambassadors 'Awwad al- Khalidi (Paris), Muhammad al-'Adwan (Moscow), Fu'ad Ayyub (London) and Talal al-Hasan (Belgium and the European Community).

Palestinian Delegation Arrives 17 Nov

JN1711131691 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference arrived in Amman from the occupied Arab territories today. The delegation, which is headed by Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, includes Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Sami al-Kilani, and Samir 'Abdallah.

Jordanians, Palestinians Meet

JN1811212991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Within the framework of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination for the next phase of the peace conference, the Jordanian side under Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Palestinian side under PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas held a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office this evening.

They reviewed all issues and ideas, as well as the Israeli measures and practices in the occupied territories which aim to undermine all efforts concerning the peace conference. The two sides denounced the sinful and perpetrated attack on the documents of the Islamic court in Jerusalem. They agreed to move swiftly to stop such practices and to restore the documents to their place. The two sides will work to secure the intervention of international parties in this regard.

Syrian Delegation To Arrive

JN1811205991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Our radio station has learned from an authoritative Jordanian source that the Syrian delegation to the Madrid conference, led by Syria's UN Ambassador Dia'ullah al-Fattal, is scheduled to arrive in Amman Tuesday for policy coordination talks with the Jordanian team prior to the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks resume. A three-way Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian meeting is also set to be held in Amman Wednesday to be attended by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory council attached to the Palestinian side of the joint delegation.

Our radio station has further learned that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is expected in Amman Wednesday, but his visit may be put off until Saturday because of a Jordanian cabinet change scheduled for Wednesday. The talks of al-Shar' with Jordanian officials will focus on coordination before the multilateral talks. Authoritative sources told us that as far as the mutilateral talks are concerned, the two sides agree in principle but differ on the date for their commencement. Amman is emphasizing the need for Arab coordination in the interest of a united position before the bilateral and multilateral negotiations resume.

Trilateral Talks Set

JN1911093391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—A five member Syrian delegation arrives in Amman Tuesday for trilateral consultations to coordinate moves with Jordanian and Palestinian delegates ahead of the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks launched at the Oct. 30 Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said the team, headed by Zakariya Isma'il, will meet Tuesday with Jordanian officials and the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks.

Mr. Isma'il, a former ambassador and an expert on international law, is the deputy head of the Syrian negotiating team.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said the trilateral meeting of Jordanian, Syrian and Palestinian delegates would be held Wednesday to discuss "strategy and priorities for the next phase of Arab-Israeli negotiations."

"The visit by the Syrian delegation is an excellent development for inter-Arab coordination," said Dr. Abu-Jabir, who headed the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the opening of the peace conference in Madrid.

"This is an opportunity for the Jordanian, Palestinian and Syrian delegates to get to know each other, plan strategy and set priorities for the next phase of talks," the minister said.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' was expected in Amman within the next several days, but no specific date has yet been set.

A five-member Palestinian team of peace negotiators and advisors is currently in Amman for consultations with Jordanian officials and delegates.

"We are coordinating in depth on two levels with the Jordanian team—the bilaterals and multilaterals," Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat said Monday. "We need strong coordination to reach common ground not only with the Jordanians but with Syrians, Saudis... and the other Arab parties."

At an open debate held in Amman Sunday, the Palestinian delegates deplored what they said was the lack of Arab coordination prior to the peace conference and said the Arab position in talks with Israel was weakened because of it.

Jordan and Syria have been moving towards increased coordination ahead of bilateral talks after Minister of Tourism and Antiquities 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti held talks with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Foreign Minister al-Shar'. Mr. al-Kabariti delivered a message from Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri to Mr. al-Zu'bi on the need to coordinate negotiating strategies.

Jordan and Syria have agreed to work together towards drawing up "a working plan" to be adopted by all Arab parties to the peace negotiations in a bid to circumvent "Israeli attempts to undermine the peace process," said Mr. al-Kabariti, who returned from Damascus Sunday.

Wednesday's trilateral meeting is expected to try to formulate a common position on the venue and date for the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks and on the timing for multilateral talks with Israel.

Moves for closer coordination between the three parties came after Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced last week that they had healed an eight-year rift.

Jordan has said it will attend the multilateral talks, scheduled for December, but it said it will not sign any final agreement with Israel without tangible progress on

the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian side is reportedly closer to the Syrian position, which insists on progress to be achieved on the bilateral forum before entering multilateral talks.

"There are some differences among the parties towards the third stage of the negotiations and we are dicussing this in detail," said Mr. 'Urayqat without elaboration.

The Jordanian team Monday met to "assign responsibilities" to individual members and to finalise changes in the composition of the delegation, informed sources said.

Although the sources said last minute changes were still possible in the delegation's make-up, they said five new members have been introduced to replace delegates who attended in the Madrid conference. They said at least two seats remained vacant.

The new delegates include former Supply Minister and Economic Advisor at the Prime Ministry Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Marwan al- Mu'ashshir, the official spokesman for the delegation in Madrid, water specialist Mundhir Haddadin, former head of the Department for Palestinian Affairs Ahmad Qatanani and Badri al-Mulqi, former head of the Department of Land and Surveys.

The sources said Jordan's ambassadors to Moscow and London, Muhammad al-'Adwan and Fu'ad Ayyub respectively, as well as Muhammad Bani-Hani, secretary of the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment, have been replaced.

The names of the other two delegates that would be replace according to this change could not be obtained by the Jordan Times.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Leaves Parliamentary Bloc

JN1711173291 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Al-Zarqa', 17 Nov (PETRA)—Deputy Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz has announced his withdrawal from the Islamic Movement Bloc [the Muslim Brotherhood] in the House of Representatives.

In a statement to PETRA, Deputy Abu-Mahfuz said that he submitted a memorandum in this regard to the Islamic Movement deputies yesterday. He added that as of today, he is a one of the independent deputies in the House of Representatives.

New Restriction Tightens Blockade of Al-'Aqabah

JN1711103691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 91 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Repeated appeals and pointed reminders have done little to ease the continuing "interdiction" of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels by the American-led naval fleet enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq. If anything, the enforcers have suddenly tightened their procedures, shipping officials said Saturday.

The latest addition to the requirements laid down by the warships patrolling the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba is a condition that even fully loaded chartered ships make their cargo fully accessible for inspection on high seas—a process which deprive the vessels of using their full cargo capacity, leading to higher freight costs and in turn higher prices for the consumer, officials said.

The first victim of the new rule, according to the Shipping Agents Association of Jordan, was a Romanian vessel carrying rice destined for Iraq.

M.V. Calugareni, loaded with 7,470 tonnes of Indian rice, was intercepted at the Tiran Straits on Nov. 10 by the enforcers of the blockade on Iraq, the association said. The vessel, whose cargo has been approved by the United Nations Sanctions Committee, has been lying outside Tiran since then, unable to meet the inspectors' demand that "all cargo on board" is made accessible, the association said.

Rearranging the bagged rice to allow access to the entire cargo hold "is an impossibility to perform at sea away from any nearby ports," the association said in a memorandum to Lloyds List International, London.

The memo pointed out that 93 chartered ships with full bagged cargo had called at al-'Aqabah since Jan. 1, 1991, and none of them were asked to have full cargo accessibility. "Suddenly and without advance warning the U.S. naval force commenced strictly enforcing the 100 per cent accessibility rule," according to the memo.

According to Sufyan al-Muhaysin, an official of the association, the rice aboard the Calugareni is part of a 30,000-tonne rice consignment approved by the U.N. Sanctions committee after the proper notification in July 1990 under paragraph 20 of Resolution 687, which exempts food and medicine from the international embargo against Iraq.

What makes the experience of the Calugareni alarming to the shipping sector and importers is the possibility that hundreds of ships which have already been loaded or are en route to al-'Aqaba could be subject to the same 100 per cent accessibility rule.

Mr. al-Muhaysin estimated that the new requirement would deprive ships of almost 30 per cent of their cargo space, which will have to paid for by the charterers. He said if they enforcers were to apply the new rule to the letter, Jordan will end up losing a minimum of JD [Jordanian dinars] 35 million as "inspection surcharges"—JD 25 million on vessels carrying containers and loose cargo and JD 10 million on chartered vessels.

Jordan has repeatedly brought up to the U.S. the issue of the direct and indirect impact of the difficult conditions imposed by the enforcers of the blockade in the Red Sea.

Several agreements and guidelines were reached, but, as one shipping agent put it, "a new condition and requirement is introduced every time we manage to meet another."

Informed sources said the consignment of rice aboard the Romanian vessel was imported by a Jordanian private sector establishment for export to Iraq.

According to statistics released by the U.S. Navy, since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq on Aug. 6, 1990—four days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—the naval task force has intercepted over 12,000 merchant ships, boarded over 2,500 and turned away 140 (the number of those "turned away" does not include those ordered to unload "suspect cargo" elsewhere in the Red Sea).

A U.S. Navy spokesman said in October that despite the end of the Gulf war in February the number of interceptions has not decreased. The enforcement measures were tightened and the frequency of interceptions has gone up "simply because shippers are feeling more comfortable with sailing to this part of the world which insurance rates are going down," according to the spokesman.

The stringent enforcement of the blockade has caused severe hardships for Jordanian businessmen who have been paying additional costs for transhipment and industrialists whose production schedules were thrown into disarray because of delays in getting raw materials.

Foreign Minister Says EC Expresses Support

JN0511131291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said that during his talks in Brussels with foreign ministers of the European countries, he sensed full satisfaction with Jordan's position and the courageous stand of King Husayn toward the peace efforts in the region.

In a telephone interview with the Amman radio news desk, he said the European Community has showed full readiness to extend maximum support for the Jordanian position and at all levels. He added that his talks with a number of EC foreign ministers dealt with bilateral relations between Jordan and the EC. The ministers expressed their countries' readiness to support Jordan in the economic field over the next months and years.

He said that during the talks the cooperation agreements between Jordan and the EC were reviewed and discussed. The European ministers voiced admiration for Jordan's efforts in the field of economic reforms.

Hostages Waite, Sutherland Released

Buwayz Confirms Release

NC1811161791 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov 18 (AFP)—Two hostages, Briton Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland, have been released, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz confirmed Monday.

Waite, an envoy of the Church of England, was kidnapped in January 1987, and Sutherland, dean of the agronomy faculty at the American University in Beirut, was abducted in June 1985.

En Route to Damascus

NC1811165091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1629 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] A source close to the Syrian leadership has confirmed that the two hostages, Briton Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland, have been released. They are both on their way to Damascus. The source refused to give any further details.

SLA Commander on Hostage Release Deal

NC1911063691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Hostages Briton Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland were freed yesterday. As usual, they appeared at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, where they were handed over to the British and U.S. ambassadors by Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur. [passage omitted]

In a first reaction to the release, General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has expressed his readiness to free a large number of detainees in al-Khiyam Prison and in the Israeli prisons if SLA and Israeli soldiers are released as part of the deal that led to the release of the two Western hostages.

He noted that it is difficult at this time to free more detainees from al-Khiyam if there is no cooperation to release Israeli and SLA soldiers.

Commenting on the fate of the Israeli soldiers, Lahd said: We have no confirmation of this, but we are almost certain that they are in the hands of Hizballah and that some of them are still alive.

4 Injured in Amal-Hizballah Fighting East of Tyre

NC1811062891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Four persons were injured during clashes last night between Hizballah and the Amal movement in the village of Tayr Dibbah. Machine guns and antitank weapons were used in the fighting.

AFP has reported that two of the four injured persons are from Tayr Dibbah. A quarrel during the evening prayers at the mosque in which two persons were injured, including one who was stabbed, soon developed into a clash in the village's streets. REUTER has reported that the clashes lasted for three hours and that contacts were made among Amal, Hizballah, and the security authorities to deploy an Army force in the village.

Fighting Resumes, Army Intercedes

NC1811170391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Our security correspondent has learned that the Lebanese Army entered Tayr Dibbah at 1600 today after Amal-Hizballah fighting erupted at 1500. Heavy- and medium-caliber weapons were used in the clashes.

One Killed, Eight Wounded

NC1811172191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed in Tayr Dibbah this afternoon. Heavy- and medium-caliber machine guns were used in the clashes. A force from the Lebanese army's 10th brigade deployed at the entrances to Tayr Dibbah to stop the clashes. [passage omitted]

According to an Amal military official in Tayr Dibbah, the clashes today left one person dead and eight others wounded.

Committee Formed To Probe Clashes

NC1811205691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] A joint Amal-Hizballah statement issued tonight said that the Tayr Dibbah clashes were a despicable incident and that parties exist that are interested in reviving sedition.

The two sides formed a joint committee to investigate the clashes and to hand over those responsible to the competent authorities.

2 Hizballah Members Killed in Infiltration Attempt

NC1411180691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Our correspondent on security affairs in the south has learned that two Hizballah members were killed during the last few hours while attempting to infiltrate from the Wadi al-Hujayr region into the security strip. Reports said that the infiltrating group went into a minefield, which led to the explosion of one of the mines. Two people were killed.

2 Lahdist Patrol Members Killed

NC1511075791 Ba'labakk Lebanon Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The operations room of the faithful resistance has issued a statement that says: As the Abu-Dhar-al-Ghafari Group was planting an explosive charge on al-Qantarah Road, a clash took place with the enemy, who shelled the area using artillery and helicopters. Husayn Mzannar and Husayn Shibli, two mujahidin from the faithful resistance, were martyred as a result.

The statement added: Yesterday a patrol of the Lahdist agents [South Lebanese Army—SLA] attempted to approach the site of the clash, when the mujahidin set off an explosive charge under the patrol, killing or wounding all its members. The faithful resistance vowed to continue its march until liberation or victory.

Israeli Military Actions 14-18 Nov

Planes Attack PFLP Base, Hizballah Site

NC1411164991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes attacked three targets in southern Lebanon this afternoon.

The first target was a house in al-Rashidiyah camp used as a base for George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. The house was destroyed. The second target was a Hizballah position in Jabal Safi. The third target was the Sit Zubaydah Bridge linking al-Nabatiyah with Iqlim al-Tuffah. Work to repair the bridge started yesterday after it was destroyed by Israeli planes two weeks ago.

There are no reports yet of casualties.

Shelling Damages UN Vehicle

NC1411165891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] A position manned by members of the Finnish contingent serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] was targeted by Israeli shelling today. A UNIFIL armored personnel carrier was damaged near Qabrikha.

Patrol Kills 2 Fundamentalists

NC1411172391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] A group of armed fundamentalists has clashed with an Israeli patrol on the al-Qantarah road in the south. Two fundamentalists were killed during the clash.

AFP has reported that one person has been killed while planting an explosive device intended for an Israeli patrol near the village of al-Qantarah.

Zibqin Shelling Kills 3 Youths

NC1511124091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Three people were killed and another was wounded in Zibqin, in the Tyre district, at noon today as a result of Israeli artillery fire which the village has been coming under since 1100 today. The ages of those killed ranged between 11 and 14 years. They were killed when a shell landed in the village at noon today. The casualties were taken to Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre.

The shelling of the village by Lahd militia and the occupation forces continued until this afternoon.

IDF, SLA Activity Near Zibqin Denied

TA1511134291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Three children were killed in an explosion this afternoon in the village of Zibqin, north of the security zone in southern Lebanon. The cause of the explosion has not been determined. Another girl was seriously injured. The dead children were 11, 12, and 14 years old and were all members of one family in the Shiite village.

Sources at UN Headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that senior UNIFIL officers set out to the village to determine the cause of the explosion. A UNIFIL spokesman said that an initial investigation shows that no artillery fire was directed at this village.

Israeli sources said that there was no IDF [Israel Defense Forces] or SLA [South Lebanese Army] activity near Zibqin today.

New Observation Devices in Security Zone

NC1811070491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign news agencies have quoted security sources as saying that the Israeli troops and Lahd militia have installed new observation equipment in the occupied security zone in anticipation of possible operations to be carried out by gliders.

The same sources added that the occupation troops and Lahd militiamen have installed extremely powerful spotlights as well as highly advanced infrared-operated night-vision equipment around all their positions.

Warplanes Overfly South, Mountain

NC1811093091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew the south and the mountain shortly after 1000 today, breaking the sound barrier.

Forces Expel UN Troops

NC1811180291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] According to the latest report from Tyre, a force from the 10th Brigade backed with a motorized division from the special troops at 1610 today deployed around Tayr Dibbah and began efforts to defuse the situation there in cooperation with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The force tried to enter the town at 0900 today but could not do so because of renewed clashes between Hizballah and Amal officials in the town. According to information, 'Abid Shur, Amal's military official in the town, has been killed, and seven other people were injured.

According to the correspondent of the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY in Hasbayyah, Israeli occupation forces at dawn today brought eight Merkava tanks and 75 troops to its position on (al-Shuruqi) hill near al-Khiyam. Four other tanks were seen rolling toward al-Mtullah. Israeli buildup is also reported on the hills overlooking al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

This morning, Lahd militia operating at Zummarayya crossing point fired heavy-caliber machine gun rounds at Mimis intersection and al- Fatir River for 20 minutes. Flares were fired by artillery over Tilal al-Dahr, Kawkaba, and (Durbul) at dawn today.

Security sources inside the security strip said the Israeli occupation forces expelled the Norwegian UNIFIL force that was operating a checkpoint at the (Suq al-Khan)-Burghuz-al-Qulaylah intersection. The Norwegian troops left the checkpoint and withdrew to (Suq al-Khan) following continued harrassment by the occupation forces, who maintain a position near the Norwegian force position. The Norwegian contingent command could not return its troops to that position despite intensive contacts with the Israeli command.

Group Claims Credit for U.S. Plane Explosion

JN1711112391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1103 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] An unidentified spokesman who said he was speaking on behalf of the Arab Revolutionary Squads [al-Fasa'il al-Thawriyah al-'Arabiyah] announced a short while ago in Sidon, southern Lebanon, that his organization was responsible for the explosion of the U.S. plane [not further identified]. He added that he possesses all the necessary documents to prove this.

Al-Hirawi Says Syrians To Withdraw in Sep 1992

NC1911124991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] In an interview with AL-HAYAH published today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that Syrian forces are due to withdraw from Lebanon in September 1992, as stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement. I must prepare myself for that, he said, adding that the Lebanese Army is not ready as far as weapons are concerned because of the U.S. ban on selling weapons to Lebanon.

President al-Hirawi said that Lebanon awaits Arab and international support to establish the fund for repairing the Lebanese infrastructure destroyed by the civil war.

He pointed out that U.S. officials asked him to stop the Lebanese resistance to Israeli forces in southern Lebanon in return for handing back the Jazzin area. John Kelly, the former U.S. Assistant secretary of state, talked to me about this, as President Bush's envoy, said al-Hirawi. I said that Jazzin is not part of the border strip so that he should tell the Israelis and the Lahd group to withdraw.

Khonsari Denies Iranian Guards To Be Withdrawn

NC1311173491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Mohammad Khonsari, head of the Middle East Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, held a news conference in which he discussed Iran's stand concerning events in Lebanon. He said that he has no precise information about what is being reported regarding U.S. pressures on Lebanon to strike at Hizballah. He denied what has been reported about withdrawing the Iranian Guards from Lebanon, and he stated that he hoped all hostages will be released by the end of this month. He pointed out that there are some sides which do not want to achieve this.

Mideast Peace Talks Delegation Head Resigns

NC1911125891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Our correspondent at the Foreign Ministry has learned that Dr. Zafir al-Hasan, head of Lebanon's negotiating delegation, has been relieved of duty at his own request. He wants to devote his time to the committee in charge of organizing the Foreign Ministry and the exams committee that he heads, which is responsible for official exams to select new ministry diplomats. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Warns Government Against Israeli Deal

NC1711125191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Hizballah has warned the government and Lebanese officials against engaging in deals with Israel under a U.S. plan on Jazzin or other areas, because dealing with Lebanon's problem with the Israeli occupation separately under the theme of recovering Jazzin means accepting the Israeli presence in the occupied strip and a readiness to make further concessions in the future.

In an interview with the Voice of the People Radio, Shaykh Husayn Khalil, head of the Hizballah Political Bureau, advised, in his words, everyone without exception not to (?dare) surrender to the U.S. proposals on the

south and Resolution 425. He said that resistance is not as easy a prey as some imagine.

He disclosed to our radio station that Hizballah has received confirmation that the United States proposed to the Lebanese delegation on the sidelines of the Madrid conference to disarm the resistance in exchange for Jazzin. He said that Jazzin is poisonous honey presented to the Lebanese Government. He announced Hizballah's rejection of any overt military appearance or the presence of all resistance factions in the liberated areas. [sentence as heard]

Theologian Condemns Madrid Peace Talks

LD1511212791 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, Nov. 15, IRNA—The Arab-Israeli negotiations in Madrid were termed as a "stab in the back of the Islamic ummah and more dangerous than (Anwar) al-Sadat's treason," by a prominent Lebanese alim [theologian] here Friday.

"The compromising policy of Arabs in granting legitimacy to Israel is more hazardous than the occupation of Palestine by the Zionist regime," head of the Tawhid Islamic Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban told a Friday prayer in this northern Lebanese city.

"While Israel stubbornly rejects any dialogue on its withdrawal from the occupied lands, we see Arabs at odds over the venue of holding dialogue (with the Zionist regime) but not over its contents," he said.

The Islamic ummah, he reiterated, will never bow to the will of Israel and the United States, because compromise will only result in surrender to the "historical enemy of Muslims."

Shaykh Sha'ban urged the Arab heads of state to stand beside their peoples in the confrontation with the illegal Zionist regime because "sharing the table with (Yitzhaq) Shamir means their servility and baseness."

Hizballah Says U.S. Planning To Attack Libya

NC1611132791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement saying that U.S. President George Bush, who prepared for the Madrid conference with the grinding Gulf war, after which he controlled all oil and wealth in the eastern part of the Arab and Islamic world, in exploiting Saddam Husayn's historic foolishness under what was dubbed Desert Storm, along with his clients in Paris and London, is preparing to pounce on what remains of Arab and Muslim resources by invading another Arab desert, this time from the Gulf of Sidra in Libya.

Hostages Waite, Sutherland Arrive in Damascus

NC1811202391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] REUTER has reported that British hostage Terry Waite and U.S. hostage Thomas Sutherland, who were released today, have arrived in Damascus, and that arrangements are now being made to hand them over to the ambassadors of their respective countries at the Syrian Foreign Ministry at midday today [as heard].

A Royal Air force plane is headed for Damascus from Cyprus carrying a medical team and Terry Waite's brother.

Waite, Sutherland Handed Over to Envoys

JN1811212591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2112 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry tonight, Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur handed British hostage Terry Waite and U.S. hostage Thomas Sutherland to British Ambassador Andrew Green and U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross, respectively.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed his thanks to Syria for its role in the release of the two hostages today. Radio Monte Carlo said that Perez de Cuellar also thanked all parties who contributed to the release of the two hostages, noting that efforts will continue to release all those held in the region.

Waite Says Three Hostages To Be Freed

JN1911060991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry last night, Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur handed British hostage Terry Waite and U.S. hostage Thomas Sutherland to British Ambassador Andrew Green and U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross.

In a statement, Yusuf Shakkur said: I would like to express Syria's satisfaction that the efforts to secure the release of the two hostages, Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland, have eventually been crowned with success. He added: It is only natural that our satisfaction will be complete only when the remaining hostages are released.

Shakkur went on to say: Syria, thanks to the constant instructions issued by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, has made strenuous efforts to obtain the release of all hostages due to humanitarian motives. Syria will continue its efforts to secure the release of the remaining hostages.

Concluding his statement, Shakkur said: We hope that our efforts to close the file of the hostages before the end of this year will be successful.

British Ambassador to Damascus Andrew Green expressed his thanks to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for the efforts it made to secure the release of Terry Waite. He also thanked the United Nations in this regard. Furthermore, the British ambassador expressed the hope that the remaining hostages will be released.

For his part, Terry Waite thanked Syria for its efforts to obtain his release. He also extended his thanks to the international bodies and organizations which contributed to his release. Mr. Waite added: The hostages Joseph Cicippio and Allan Steen will be released before the end of this month, and afterwards, hostage Terry Anderson will be freed.

For his part, U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Christopher Ross extended thanks on behalf of U.S. President George Bush to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and to the Syrian Government for the efforts made to obtain the release of the hostage Thomas Sutherland. He said he hoped there would be other steps aimed at securing the release of all hostages. Mr. Thomas Sutherland extended special thanks to Syria for its efforts to secure his release and also for the good treatment accorded to him after his release. He also thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the international organizations which contributed to his release.

Terry Waite had earlier made a statement to a correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY [SANA] expressing his extreme happiness with his release. He thanked Syria, Syrian officials, and all those who contributed to his release. He condemned the repression and suppression being experienced by the Lebanese citizens in occupied southern Lebanon. He expressed his sympathy with them and demanded that human dignity, justice, and peace be realized for all people. He also demanded the release of all detainees.

In a similar statement to a SANA correspondent, Thomas Sutherland expressed his happiness and pleasure over his release. He thanked the Syrian officials who, he said, were very kind to him after his release.

The United States yesterday commended Syria's efforts to obtain the release of the U.S. and British hostages. U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said: We are happy over the release of the two hostages. We extend our thanks to Syria for its efforts to secure their release. The spokesman also expressed thanks to the United Nations, Lebanon, and Iran for helping to secure the release of Waite and Sutherland.

British Prime Minister John Major yesterday also expressed his happiness over the release of British hostage Terry Waite. In a statement following the news of Waite's release, Major said he hoped the remaining hostages would be released soon.

REUTER said that church bells were sounded all over Britain yesterday with the news of the release of the last British hostage in Lebanon and U.S. hostage Thomas Sutherland.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed his thanks to Syria for its role in the release of the British and U.S. hostages yesterday. He also thanked all those who contributed to the release of the two hostages, indicating that efforts will continue to be made to secure the release of all detainees in the region.

In a related development, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher affirmed yesterday that Syria had nothing to do with the bombing of the Pan Am plane over Scotland in 1988. News reports quoted Boucher in a statement made after news of the release of the two Western hostages held captive in Lebanon as saying that the outcome of investigations into this incident did not incriminate Syria.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

JN1711100291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to Syria. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'a and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials received the Lebanese minister at Damascus' western entrance.

In a statement to SANA on his arrival, Buwayz said: My visit to Syria today comes within the framework of constant and continued consultations on regional and international issues. There is no doubt that the horizons of the peace conference will be the main issue of the talks.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN1711170791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpt] This morning Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, with Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and Albert 'Asi, head of Lebanon's office in Damascus, also in attendance. They evaluated the Madrid peace conference and discussed coordination ahead of the next stage of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Talks With Khaddam

JN1711194691 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] At 1200 today Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. They discussed the latest regional developments, including the Madrid peace conference and bilateral coordination to advance Syrian, Lebanese, and Arab interests. They exchanged views on the upcoming stage. The vice president emphasized that Syria continues to support the Lebanese state and pointed out its efforts to obtain the liberation of the south and the implementation of UN Resolution 425.

Jordanian Minister Calls for Arab Coordination

JN1611090291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ghadir Tahir]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordan and Syria are headed towards increased cooperation and coordination ahead of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks scheduled to resume later this month, Jordanian officials said Friday.

Tourism and Antiquities Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who is currently visiting Damascus, said he delivered a message from Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri to his Syrian counterpart, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, during a meeting with the premier Thursday. A well-placed official also said Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' planned to visit Jordan this week, but that the date of his visit would be determined as soon as possible.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times from Damascus, Mr. al-Kabariti, said Jordan renewed its call on Syria to coordinate with Jordan ahead of the forthcoming bilateral talks so as "to prevent Israel from exploiting weak points in Arab coordination strategy to undermine the peace process."

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said earlier Friday that there were plans for a meeting between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation team before the start of the bilateral talks. Dr. Abu-Jabir did not specify a date or venue for the meeting but said the Palestinian team was expected in Amman Sunday to prepare for the next phase of the negotiations.

The three sides are expected to try to find a common position as to when they would enter multilateral talks with Israel on such issues as water rights and disarmament. [passage omitted]

In his interview, Mr. al-Kabariti underlined the importance of inter-Arab coordination, saying that "Jordan believes that political action should not remain restricted to dealing exclusively with the American factor."

He explained that the Arab side "must coordinate towards building a negotiating position that is based on basic principles agreed upon by all Arab parties rather than leave it to others to set the course. An agreement on basic issues is better than not reaching an agreement on anything."

He also stressed that Jordan "feels that we must not concentrate on the form (in the context of the peace process) at the expense of substance."

His statement appeared to reflect a veiled criticism voiced by Jordanian officials of what was perceived in Madrid as a Syrian focus on procedural issues rather than substance.

Mr. Abu-Jabir had earlier deplored a decision adopted by the Israeli Knesset last week considering the Syrian Golan Heights as "non-negotiable" Israeli territory.

The minister described the resolution as "part of (Israeli) provocations that constitute a contradicition with American guarantees and commitments by the co-sponsors, in addition to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace. [passage omitted]

Discusses Consultations on Peace Talks

JN1611155891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Telephone "interview" with 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Jordanian minister of tourism and antiquities, in Damascus by unidentified correspondent; date not given—recorded; only al-Kabariti answers to questions are broadcast]

[Text] I held a meeting with his excellency the Syrian prime minister yesterday and conveyed a message to him from Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri. I also conveyed feelings of love and respect for his excellency the Syrian prime minister and the Syrian Government. We congratulated the Syrian Government and the Syrian people on the anniversary of the 16 November movement. The message includes steps by the Jordanian Government to reinforce and coordinate Arab cooperation, as well as our strong desire to promote joint Arab action to secure a unified Arab negotiating position at the upcoming peace talks. His excellency the Syrian prime minister expressed his strong desire and complete readiness to respond to the Jordanian message.

I believe that this visit will result in other high-level meetings. We held discussions with the Syrian minister of tourism and met with the Syrian minister of state for planning affairs to discuss several issues, including the possibility of implementing a protocol signed by the Jordanian and Syrian Governments in the area of tourism. We also discussed ways to facilitate border measures, the issue of a new border post at the village of Jabir, and the possibility of coordination to establish joint border posts. I believe that the private sectors of Jordan and Syria will hold meetings to mobilize a program for joint marketing between the two countries.

Says Sides Agree on 'Action Plan'

JN1711110391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 91 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and Syria have agreed to work together towards drawing up "an action plan" to be adopted by all Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations to circumvent "Israeli attempts to undermine the peace process," a Jordanian minister said Sunday.

Speaking after what he described as "friendly and lengthy" talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus, Tourism and Antiquities Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the two sides had "a frank and objective discussion of issues awaiting Arab parties to the peace negotiations."

In a telephone interview from Damascus, Mr. al-Kabariti said there was "a total convergence in views (between Jordan and Syria) on the basic issues."

He said further bilateral meetings would be held in Amman soon "to discuss procedural issues and other details... aimed at drawing up an action plan agreed upon by all concerned Arab parties."

Mr. al-Kabariti, who returns home Sunday, Thursday delivered a message to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi from Jordanian Premier Tahir al-Masri. He also met with Syria's planning and tourism ministers Saturday.

According to informed sources, Mr. al-Kabariti's talks in Damascus were not disrupted by the reported resignation of Mr. al-Masri's government. The minister was asked to go ahead with his scheduled meeting with Mr. al-Shar' Saturday without any change in his programme, the sources said.

Khaddam Emphasizes Support for Libya

LD1811210191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic, held a meeting today with the brother secretary of the Arab Libyan Relations Office in Damascus.

During this meeting Brother Khaddam emphasized that the campaign launched against the Great Jamahiriyah is a campaign against Syria and against all pure people of the Arab nation.

He also emphasized Syria's readiness to supply whatever is asked of it to stand by the side of the Arab Libyan people and by the brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution.

Program Notes Differences Within Saddam's Family

JN1711132091 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] After all this, what is interesting beyond any doubt is the reason for suspending 'Uday's newspaper. The suspension of the newspapers of the tyrant's son has been linked to repeated information about serious differences within Saddam's family, which also led to the dismissal of Husayn Kamil and the appointment of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid in his place. The

first is known as Saddam's son-in-law and cousin, while the second is related to Saddam through an unknown father.

In Tikrit itself, there is conflict between the families and influential people of the city. The conflict has spread to the tribes that backed Saddam: al-Jubur, al-Zulaym, and 'Ubayd, whose sons form the backbone of Saddam's personal guards. The tyrant's measures limiting authority to family members resulted in rifts on all the sides on which the regime relied. Saddam, who is suffering from an obsessive neurosis, however went far in confining power to himself; he assassinated and dismissed those closest to him. The decision to suspend publication of BABIL and AL-RAFIDAYN is no more than an incident that falls within Saddam's attempt to create a sort of balance within the ruling family on the one hand and to prepare for an end to Saddam's farce on pluralism, democracy, and freedom of press on the other.

Brothers, if the Iraqis have witnessed freedom of the press through the freedom of 'Uday—Saddam's son—to say whatever he wants, then Saddam has taken back the right he had granted to his son, because he wants no one to speak on his behalf. What new farces will Saddam, 'Uday, Watban, Sab'awi; 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who is known as 'Ali al-Kimyawi [chemical 'Ali]; and the members of the gang embark [words indistinct]?

Afghanistan

Najibollah Discusses Soviet Ties, Peace Efforts

LD1811181191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Interview with President Najibollah by unidentified BAKHTAR correspondent on 18 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Esteemed President. As your excellency knows, some time ago a delegation including a number of representatives of the opposition paid a visit to Moscow. Please give us your view on this visit.

[Najibollah] The state of the Republic of Afghanistan, which regards as its primary task ending the war and ensuring nationwide national peace, proclaimed the national reconciliation policy around five years ago in order to achieve this sacred aspiration. The method of implementing this policy in practice and the experiences gained from the objective realities of Afghanistan's society have clearly shown that the most basic solution to the issues in and around Afghanistan is to reach an understanding among the sides involved by means of talks and dialogue. It is on this basis that we emphasize the principle of talks, dialogue, and understanding among the parties concerned in all the plans and proposals that we present. This dialogue, too, is a part of that.

A principle that merits serious mention, however, is that in any kind of talks and dialogue the main element is the sides in Afghanistan. This is because a comprehensive solution to the issue of Afghanistan can only be achieved by means of holding negotiations in which all the sides supporting the political and Afghani solution can take part.

In connection with the visit of the representatives of a section of Afghanistan's opposition to Moscow and their meetings with the Soviet authorities—despite the fact that a number of formation leaders and various opposition circles and commanders inside the country rejected it—it should be said that we, irrespective of speaking from the legal point of view on the text, form, and words inserted in the statement and the composition of the delegation of a section of the Afghan opposition, their internal disagreement on appointing the head of the delegation, and interference by Pakistan's military authorities and so on, the main issue that the Afghan opposition delegation and the Soviet authorities discussed in Moscow was the POW issue. [sentence as heard]

Although some opponents of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan attempt to portray the Soviet POW issue as a political issue, it is, in our opinion, a humanitarian question. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan has handled this matter with sympathy and consideration. So far, for example, as a result of the humanitarian efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan, nine Soviet POW's have been freed and are now living with their families. In the future, too, we of course will continue our active, sincere assistance and cooperation concerning the release of the Soviet POW's.

Other points in the statement have, in general, already been reflected either in the proposals and plans put forward by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan or in the five-point statement of His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, or in the Soviet-U.S. joint statement. For example, the Soviet decision to dispatch troops to Afghanistan has been previously criticized by the USSR state and party authorities of the Soviet Union. Criticizing this in 1986, the 27th CPSU Congress likened it to a bleeding wound. Similarly, the state and party leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan has also categorically and repeatedly criticized the dispatch of Soviet forces to Afghanistan. This has been reflected several times in statements, announcements, and interviews given by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan. The decision to send troops to Afghanistan has been criticized. It was based on this (?principle) that the Geneva accords were signed in the course of the realization of national reconciliation and the grounds for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces were prepared.

In our peace proposals and in the mechanism of their implementation, we have talked about the necessity of an interim phase. Specific proposals made on this by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan at the conference of heads of states or governments of Nonaligned countries held in Belgrade and other formal gatherings testify to this.

How could such an interim period be brought about, however? As was clarified in the five-point statement of the UN secretary general as well as in the joint U.S.-Soviet declaration, the interim period and its details will be worked out in an intra-Afghan dialogue. Therefore, the only acceptable way toward creating an interim phase is intra-Afghan dialogue.

It is the Afghans who should determine the future of their country and the form of their state structure.

Another point referred to in the Moscow talks is the question of holding elections. If the proposals and plans put forward by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan are studied and assessed, it will also become clear that elections comprise the main element in our proposals, because we consider elections the most usual and most popular means for realizing the will and desire of the people and their decision regarding their [words indistinct]. And this method is also in line with the accepted norms of democracy in the contemporary world. It should be said once again that the method of holding elections (?could) be discussed in the course of intra-Afghan negotiations.

Another question discussed in the Moscow talks, that of halting supplies of weapons and military equipment, is a matter on which proposals have previously been put forward. Continuing its efforts for the cessation of war

and to maintain peace, the Republic of Afghanistan first discussed the question of the cessation of the supply of arms to all belligerent forces at the joint session of members of the country's national assembly three years ago. Also, when the United States and the USSR announced in a joint declaration their decision on halting arms supplies with effect from 1 January 1992, the Republic of Afghanistan was the first state to welcome the decision. We assessed it as a positive step toward the political solution of the Afghan question.

As for the question of pledges made by the USSR on taking part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, our compatriots recall that on the eve of withdrawing its military forces from Afghanistan, the Soviet Union announced that it considers itself morally bound to take part in the reconstruction and revival of the war-torn economy of Afghanistan. For example, in creating the UN program of humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan—the Salam program—the Soviet Union gave the equivalent of $600 million to the budget of the program.

We believe, however, that the five-point statement of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the joint U.S.-Soviet statement concerning Afghanistan have created a firm, acceptable, and practical basis for the speedy, peaceful, and political solution of the Afghan issue. The principles enshrined in these statements, in which the Islamic, national, and Afghan characteristics of our society are considered, emphasize intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations as the main key for the political solution of the question of Afghanistan, which could prepare the ground for the cessation of war and the maintenance of peace and the cessation of bloodshed.

It was for this reason that the Republic of Afghanistan, in all the drafts and proposals that it has presented, considers possible the solution of all issues on the negotiating table and by Afghans themselves. If we are really committed to and are honest about the future and destiny of Afghanistan, and if we take steps toward implementing the above-mentioned principles, we should take practical and responsible measures in the direction of political solutions that are supported and backed at the moment by our people and the entire peace-loving community. We should not use such documents to launch a propaganda hue and cry that will have short- lived propaganda impact and which will not contribute to the process of a political solution, while the people of Afghanistan are fully aware about the issues discussed in the documents.

Therefore, in taking this opportunity, I sincerely propose once again, following the will and demand of Afghanistan's people, to the opposition forces, taking into account the supreme national interest—and emphasizing this—that the only way to become free from the tragedy and suffering of the present war in Afghanistan is to sit around the negotiating table and discuss the national interest of the country. We should no longer permit a situation in which Afghan blood is shed by Afghans and brothers fire on brothers.

On behalf of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, I responsibly assure the people of Afghanistan that we will use the slightest possibility to achieve peace. We also assure them that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, relying on Almighty God and with the support of the people of Afghanistan, will, like their fathers and forefathers, defend to the last drop of their blood the peaceful life and honor and prestige of their compatriots and protect the country's independence and territorial integrity.

Taking this opportunity, I want to express the hope that all the forces, social organizations, and international establishments, including the United Nations, and the peace-loving countries of the world will promote and increase their efforts to ensure that the Afghans should get together, seek a peaceful solution to the issues through dialogue and negotiations, bring about peace in their war-torn country, and thus help the Afghans.

[Correspondent] Esteemed President, thank you for your kindness and for your reply.

Rabbani Details Mojahedin Moscow Negotiations

PM1811165091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 91 pp 1, 4

[Jalal al-Mashtah report: "Rabbani Confirms to AL-HAYAH Continued Coordination of Positions"]

[Excerpts] Moscow—The Afghan mojahedin delegation has extended its visit to Moscow, and another round of negotiations will be held today, Thursday. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the delegation's leader, has said that discussions will continue on "proposals from both sides" in order coordinate positions. A Soviet parliamentary source has told AL-HAYAH that disagreements over a settlement have emerged between the Russian leadership and the Soviet Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-HAYAH, Rabbani said that he sensed within the Russian leadership "many aspects which we regard as positive." He told Pankin that "a repetition of the old positions cannot resolve the problem." He demanded "bold stances."

Rabbani added that he informed officials in Moscow that there is a contradiction between their declared policy and their dealings with Afghanistan. He said that "to cling to the government that is the result of the policy of terror and to continue to supply it with weapons conflicts with the proclaimed end to the ideology of the past." He demanded "proof" of good intentions through a complete end to support for Najib and a call for his resignation and for him to go to the Soviet Union or anywhere else. The mojahedin, he added, are capable of toppling him, but they want no further bloodshed.

The delegation's leader pointed out that the required solution "must eradicate the root of the problem" and prove the credibility of Moscow's position and its desire to secure a "reconciliation that is in both sides' interest."

Rabbani summed up the mojahedin's main demands as follows: a total halt to interference; the termination of the agreements concluded with the Kabul regime; a halt on supplies to it of weapons and economic aid, which "is deducted from the Soviet people's daily bread"; the establishment of who is responsible for the destruction and ruin that has taken place; and an acknowledgment of the need for an Islamic government to assume power. [passage omitted]

He said that the first stage of the dialogue has begun, and he described the visit as a positive step. He noted that the mojahedin displayed courage in coming to a country whose policy resulted in the death of 1.5 million Afghans, and he demanded a "bold stance in return."

He added that he had "acquainted himself with the positions of various groups in Moscow, which will be of benefit to us in the future in determining how can we deal with the various parties." [passage omitted]

Rabbani denied Soviet media reports of disagreements within mojahedin ranks over the negotiations. He said that the delegation represents the overwhelming majority and described the circulation of such rumors as proof that there are still elements in the Soviet Union who want the problem to continue, and that "there are still architects of war who instigate such statements."

Delegation Departs, Stops in Iran

LD1711130191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The Afghan mojahedin delegation based in Iran and which traveled to Moscow for direct negotiations with the Soviet authorities to find a solution to the Afghan problem returned to Tehran at noon today. In an interview with our correspondent, Mortazavi, the spokesman for the Afghan mojahedin delegation based in Iran termed the outcome of the negotiations as fruitful. He referred to the joint statement with Soviet officials as an important step in the political history of Afghanistan.

He announced that the war in Afghanistan would end soon, and added: The provisional mojahedin government will be formed on 1 January under the supervision of the UN secretary general. This will lay the grounds for free elections with the active participation of various parties.

Mortazavi said: The Soviet authorities have announced that they are ready to cooperate with the new Afghan Government, and they referred to the sin of occupying Afghanistan as the responsibility of former politicians. They also announced a readiness to help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He went on to say: It has been decided that a joint commission will implement the rest of the articles of the joint declaration. A conference of delegates from Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union, and Saudi Arabia will discuss and exchange views on the future of Afghanistan.

He continued: As a goodwill gesture, the Afghan mojahedin will release the first group of Russian prisoners of war next month.

Iran-Based Mojahedin Depart for Moscow Talks

LD1011162791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] A delegation made up of the Afghan mojahedin living in Iran set off this afternoon for Moscow for the purpose of talks with Soviet officials on resolving the Afghan issue.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi, the representative of Afghan mojahedin living in Iran, in an interview with our correspondent before leaving Tehran said: We are going to Moscow on an invitation from Soviet officials for the purpose of resolving the current problems and discussions in relation to Afghanistan's future, and we hope to be able to come to an agreement on the topics of discussion. Emphasizing the fact that the people of Afghanistan will determine their future political system on the basis of Islamic objectives, he added: The Afghan brethren living in Peshawar are also participating in this conference and there are many common points of view regarding this field.

India

Official Defends Right To Sell Reactor to Iran

BK1911093591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 19 (AFP)—A top Indian civil servant has defended India's right to sell an atomic research reactor to Iran, saying the United States had already supplied one to Tehran which was still working.

P.K. Iyengar, the chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, told THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in an interview published here Tuesday that should Iran get a 10-megawatt reactor from India the deal would come under the safeguards agreement with the International Energy Commission.

Iyengar's comments came two days after India's ambassador to Washington was called to the State Department there to discuss reports that the sale of an Indian research reactor was under negotiation with Iran.

A State Department spokesman said after the meeting that he "understood" no final decision had been made on the sale, which Washington wants to stop because of what it says is the possibility of Iran "misusing" civilian nuclear materials.

"Perhaps the Western countries do not want us to get into high technology exports ... the Americans had already supplied a five-megawatt reactor to Iran which is still working," Iyengar said in the interview, without specifying the date of the U.S. sale.

"Our offer to Iran is exactly like the nuclear reactors set up by Argentina in Algeria and Peru and the recent offer it has made to Turkey... perhaps only the white man has the right to sell nuclear reactors," he added.

India is not entering into secret deals but following international safeguards, he said.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but says it is committed to the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Iran

Yazdi Warns Against U.S. Action on Libya

LD1811171791 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran's head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, said here Monday that no one country is, or should be, allowed to take hostile action against any other country in response to allegedly terrorist operations, in a manner inconsistent with international laws.

He said the United States has accused Libya of having been behind the reported bomb blast in a Pan American plane flying over Scotland in 1988, and is trying to get the backing of its Western allies in a concerted military adventurism against Libya.

The head of the judiciary who was talking to a group of justices repeated that Iran is against any terrorist operation of any nature and description, on any ground and for any purpose.

Earlier on Sunday, the speaker of the Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, condemned the U.S. for sending challenges to Libya, and called for an immediate query into the crash-case by international neutral commissions.

It is America which should stand trial, he said, for its criminal missiling down of an Iranian passenger plane on July 3, 1988, in the Persian Gulf waters, which killed all 290 passengers on board.

A Pan Am jumbo disintegrated in the air while flying over Scotland in December 1988 killing all 270 passengers and crew members aboard. The cause of the crash, as the Americans and the British allege was a bomb explosion.

Reports of Early Warning on Hostages Denied

LD1911064191 Tehran IRNA in English 0601 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 19, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Monday evening dismissed reports by certain Western news agencies claiming that Iran had informed the Lebanese Foreign Ministry of the release of the two Western hostages beforehand.

Two Western hostages, special envoy of the Archibishop of Canterbury Terry Waite and American Professor Thomas Sutherland of the American University in Beirut were freed Monday afternoon.

Western news agencies had reported that the Iranian Embassy in Beirut had informed the Lebanese Foreign Ministry in advance of the decision to release the two hostages.

IRNA Beirut bureau was informed that the Iranian Embassy had taken no measure in this respect and had no knowledge of the development.

Terry Waite was kidnapped in Beirut in Janurary 20, 1987 and Thomas Sutherland in June 9, 1985.

AL-DIYAR Interviews Mohtashemi

NC0711104691 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 28 Oct 91 pp 5, 16

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, former interior minister, by Muhammad Baqir Sharri in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [Sharri] We know that there is a rule in Islamic teachings in which you believe, which says "strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies." [Koranic verse] The outside world has unjustly used the word terrorism against several struggle movements. Nationalists and Islamists have sometimes committed wrongs which deserve blame, but cannot be described as terrorism. In the Islamic and Arab world and in our Lebanese (and Syrian) sphere, you are known as having caused problems for some foreign quarters. The proof of this is that they wanted to take revenge against you. You were involved in an incident while you were an ambassador to Syria. As a result of this incident, you were honored and received a medal, just as guide Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i was honored when his hand was injured while delivering a sermon at Tehran University. When the bomb exploded in front of you, you reportedly said: By God, if they sever my right hand, I shall continue to defend my religion and my Imam Sadiq Ja'far. You were still in bed when you reportedly said this.

Now we are before an international conference to liquidate the Arab and Islamic cause in favor of the enemy once and for all. Are you afraid or proud that you are being labeled a terrorist? Will you play the spoiler's role? The government and the Majlis may provide financial support for the intifadah. But to foil this international

conspiracy, we may need to resort to bloody operations, but not hostage-taking. Hostage-taking, for which you are not responsible, has befouled the name of Islam. But if those whom you say "will sell the cause" are harmed, their people might favor this. Are you ready to carry out missions of this kind?

[Unidentified voice] Tehran must make use of the atomic bomb as of today.

[Second unidentified voice] This is a joke, nothing else.

[Mohtashemi] This conference which will be held in Madrid is high treason and a crime against the Palestinian people and the Islamic nation. All Muslims must use various means to obstruct this conference. This does not concern one person and not another, but is the duty of all.

In my capacity as a Muslim who believes in Islam and the Mohammadan Orthodox religion, I will do my best to foil this conference.

[Sharri] In our conversation with Hojjat ol-Eslam Lari [secretary general of the Tehran conference in support of the Palestinian cause], we learned that you spoke with great satisfaction about the results of the conference. Several officials delivered speeches during the conference. You are a Majlis member, a former interior minister, and a former ambassador to Syria. You still do political work despite the opinion of the owner of TIME and other ridiculous people. We know your status among officials. We know that despite the reported differences between you and Shaykh [as published] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he has praised you on several occasions. When you were interior minister, the results of the presidential elections were announced. You yourself supervised the elections and announced their results. You testified to the freedom of the elections. You directed criticism at the revolution's enemies, who tried to cast doubt on the integrity of the elections. In your opinion, why do these problems occur? President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech was very important and the conference paid great attention to it. We are not here to praise or criticize the speech, but we say that the conference paid great attention to it. Are you pleased with Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech?

[Mohtashemi] The speech was wonderful and above all expectations. But we expected such a speech. Brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani has known the Palestinian cause for 35 years. He wrote a book on Palestine which was published in Iran. He was imprisoned several times because of his support for the Palestinian issue. In these difficult circumstances which the Palestinian and Muslim peoples are experiencing, brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani defied the entire Western world, especially the United States. The Islamic Republic of Iran is now the only state devoting all its efforts to helping the persecuted Palestinian people and to foiling all the plots against the Palestinian issue.

[Sharri] Why there is always a misunderstanding about your relations with Hashemi-Rafsanjani?

[Mohtashemi] The facts do not say so. You know that in every society and every country, if officials want to achieve their national and nationalist goals inside their country, they follow different approaches to reach their goal. The same thing is true in Iran. The revolution is in force. The pillars and milestones of this revolution were founded by Imam Khomeyni, and everyone is convinced of these milestones, particularly the revolution leader Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i. This is the age of Khomeyni, and no one could deviate from the Islamic system. As you know, all or most of the brothers in the executive and legislative councils were disciples of Imam Khomeyni, and they naturally are supporters of the Islamic revolution for the sake of reaching the goals. Each individual has his own style. I cannot think that my own method is the best one for reaching the goal while there is someone else with a different method. This absolutely does not prove that there is any animosity. We are still brothers who like each other, and such things cause us no worry. In non-Islamic circles there is, of course, a difference, meaning there is freedom of thought and there are discussions which explore potentials and capabilities. Therefore, all the brothers welcome this kind of discussion, even brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who said: I like criticism because under criticism and questioning [ishkalat] (ishkalat is a term in jurisprudence that means pausing at an issue to debate it), we can bring forth talents and correct our mistakes and those of the ministers and officials. This, in brief, is what we could say to answer all the circulated reports about differences and animosity.

[Sharri] This answer, in our view as readers and listeners, shows an honesty of conscience on your part. It also shows that you do not mix personal matters with public work. I had wanted to ask you about your opinion of Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani, but you answered that already and spared me the question. My question now relates to the conference. There was a hint, both in the recommendations of the committees and in the general recommendations, at the possibility of forming a world Islamic army to liberate Palestine. What are the practical measures you think possibly could put this extremely important idea into practice?

[Mohtashemi] We have seen ventures similar to this one in the past, such as the Palestine Liberation Army, which was made up of Arab fighters. But in the end, these ventures did not bring us practical and tangible results. But this venture that emerged from the Tehran conference has roots in Islam. This means that it reflects the true essence and doctrine of Islam. It is not a transitional or temporary matter similar to the projects that surface for a while and then are forgotten because of changes in circumstances and situations. As far as we are concerned, the formation of an army for the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem springs from the core of the doctrine and religion of Islam. It is similar to the commandment of jihad for the sake of God; a duty for each Muslim that is

not restricted to time or circumstances. The liberation of Palestine, all of Palestine, and the elimination of the usurpist Zionist entity is the epitome of action and a religious duty, and every Muslim is required to exercise this action and religious duty. The Muslim ulema, particularly the general command of Muslims, sanctioned in a public conference—the international Islamic conference in Tehran—the exercise of this duty and the formation of an army to accomplish it in order to herald this duty. We must be the first people and government to carry out this duty, as brother President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. This is not mere talk, because throughout last year hundreds of young people contacted us and persistently said: We want to go to southern Lebanon to engage in armed struggle against Israel; we want to sacrifice our lives to fulfill the wish of Imam Khomeyni to liberate Palestine. I believe that if an announcement is made calling for volunteers to liberate Palestine and establish an army for this sacred cause, hundreds of thousands will come forward for that purpose from Iran alone. I believe we could form several divisions for this cause. If we seek general mobilization in Iran, we will have more than 5 million trained individuals with practical experience gained from eight years of war. This enormous potential exists and the Iranians are prepared for sacrifice and jihad, whether in an organized war and a regular army or through qualitative suicide operations all over the world, not just in Palestine, but against the Zionists throughout the world. Thus, we have this ground in Iran and potentials exist. When brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that he is ready to form a multimillion-man army from the Islamic world to liberate Palestine, he said so because he knows the truth about this preparedness and he knows about the response of the Muslim youth in Iran.

There is no problem as far as Iran is concerned. As for the other countries and peoples, I believe that many, many Muslims and Islamic nations that maintain a link with the Islamic Republic and with the imam's line are prepared for jihad. The obstacle, however, is their governments. In other words, if these governments allow these peoples, and the Muslim youths in Afghanistan, India, Kashmir, the Arab and non-Arab countries—if they allow and respond to the desire of their peoples, we can establish armies consisting of millions of Muslims. In this conference, many Islamic parliaments approved this and the other resolutions. More than 30 parliaments and more than 10 parliamentary speakers participated in this conference. I saw with my own eyes that all the parliamentarians approved all the articles of the final statement, and not as some have claimed: that they approved the resolutions by shouting "God is Great." At the end of the conference, the chairman said: At this conference, there are deputies and parliamentary speakers, and giving approval in parliament is not done with shouts but with hand-raising. They must raise their hands to show what they think. We saw that they approved the articles, after the chairman told them that whoever approves these articles and this statement should raise his hand. I saw the unanimity, and all the television networks and cameras filmed this scene, which confirms that all the parliamentarians raised their hands. I saw many parliamentary speakers—or the ones I was able to see—raise their hands. This is proof that the Islamic parliaments have approved these articles.

One of the articles said that all the parliamentarians and parliamentary speakers will take this statement (and the resolutions) and convey it to their parliaments and governments and ask the Islamic governments to carry out its provisions. I hope very much that this article concerning the Islamic army and the other articles will be implemented. God willing, the general secretariat will follow up the implementation of this article.

[Sharri] Volunteering from other states and nations must not necessarily be through official means, but through personal volunteering. If this happens, it will be an important accomplishment and will symbolize many things. The proof is that when the United States, which is considered the most powerful state in the world, wanted to invade the Gulf, it was eager to involve the largest number of small states, even those whose population does not exceed 1 million. It asked them to make a nominal contribution of even 1,000 soldiers, because this gives a moral force to the false cause which the United States has undertaken to portray as a just cause. You in Iran are prepared to make sacrifices, but the participation of the other parties, particularly from the peoples of the Islamic world, is important from the moral point of view. Therefore, many people think that Iran must give this aspect—the participation of others—special attention, even secretly. If it trains them openly, it may provoke the entire world against it. The world will describe such duties as terrorist actions. Perhaps many of those youths who come to you and ask you for training to fight in southern Lebanon will be Iranians or people who live in Iran. But the more this is generalized, the better. Don't you think so?

[Mohtashemi] Yes. We and the others must seek to generalize the composition of this "multimillion army". Fortunately, the conferees thought about the implementation of this article. They decided to form a general secretariat to oversee the implementation of these resolutions. They appointed a secretary general, brother Musavi Lari, to implement these resolutions. I also know that the heads of the delegations have been invited to meet to plan the implementation of these resolutions, to form the general secretariat, draw up the by-laws, and so forth. So with the existence of this general secretariat and the presence of the brothers who possess the courage to implement these matters, with our help, I think that we can spread this Islamic army in all the countries.

[Sharri] Can it be said, after this conference, that a world movement has been born under the leadership of the Islamic republic?

[Mohtashemi] Definitely. Throughout the 1,400 years of Islamic history, from after the Prophet and the imams—God's prayers be upon them—we have not seen such a

broad gathering. This means a new birth of the world revolution and the start of a world Islamic movement. With this blessed birth, we can remove the obstacles facing the liberation of the Islamic countries from the hegemony of global arrogance.

[Sharri] One of the committees' recommendations says that differences between the Arabs, Islamists, and nationalists should be eliminated, and that there must be a united front to confront the dangers which threaten the Arab and Islamic world. It also says that this issue is very important with respect to the educated Arab circles, because it is the first time such a statement has been issued by Islamic institutions and an Islamic state governed by an Islamic law in a meeting between nationalists and Arabs on the one side and Islamists on the other. In the past, each group used to confront the other to the extent to which skirmishes, fighting, and even bloody conflict would erupt. Do you support this new trend, and are you optimistic about it?

[Mohtashemi] We care about the unity of the Muslim peoples. The first duty of each Muslim is to achieve unity of rank. But this does not go against taking action to free the rest of the oppressed nations from their oppression or to cooperate with all strugglers, whether they belong to the nationalists or oppressed of the world. A verse in the Holy Koran says: And why should ye not fight in the cause of God and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)?—men, women, and children whose cry is: "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from Thee one who will protect; and raise for us from Thee one who will help!" [Koranic verse] The word oppressed here does not refer only to the Muslims, but to all the oppressed, Muslims and otherwise, including those who have not embraced Islam. Therefore, we are responsible for all people, and we have to fulfill the hopes of each liberated person, of each person who wants to be liberated. Therefore, this conference went beyond these bounds and united all peoples and potentials. God willing, we will be able to overcome these obstacles inside Muslim ranks and unite them, as Imam Khomeyni said. This was one of his wishes: To form a front for the oppressed of the world. In the year 1360 according to the Iranian calender—two years after the revolution, that is 10 years ago—the imam called for forming a party of the oppressed around the world to confront the belligerent ones, foremost of which is the United States. This was one of the imam's wishes. The party of the oppressed does not only include Muslims, because there are oppressed people among the Christians, there are also oppressed people among the other non-Muslim groups and people who are controlled by the belligerent.

[Mohtashemi] We will finish the interview some other time during the next conference. [as published]

[Sharri] God willing, but the best justification is the one given soonest.

There is a question which has to be asked: It is a known fact that when you were appointed ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic you played a role in activating revolutionary action, especially in encouraging confrontation against the Israeli enemy in southern Lebanon. It has even been alleged that you contributed toward forming the Hizballah party in Lebanon. In addition, you recently toured north Africa, including Algeria, Tunis, Libya, as well as Morocco.

[Mohtashemi] Tunis, Libya, Sudan, and Algeria.

[Sharri] How do you evaluate the extent of seriousness in the revolutionary approach of the Islamic parties there, since merely carrying the title of Islam is not enough, especially regarding the subject of Palestine, and to what extent are they serious in participating to liberate and save it? This is the first part of the question. The other part of the question is: After the leaders of the Algerian Salvation Front were arrested, some media reports suggested that an Islamic country was behind the activities of the "salvationists". What do you think of that?

[Mohtashemi] As for my responsibility in Syria and Lebanon when I was ambassador, I would like to be described as the custodian of the Muslims in Lebanon, and the custodian of Hizballah at that time, more than being described as something else. I love all the Muslims and all the believers in Lebanon and anywhere else, as well as the people who fight [yujahiduna] in the name of God to realize His supreme word in all parts of world, particularly in the beloved and fraternal country of Lebanon, until the usurper state of Israel is eliminated from existence and the thorn of U.S. hegemony over the world is destroyed. We also seek to serve this [illegible] and holy cause.

As for the second part of the question, regarding traveling to Africa and the countries you mentioned, of course there are strong and good Islamic movements, but not of the standard in Sudan, where the Muslims triumphed and realized many of their hopes. Of course, you see that all conspiracies come from the West: The United States and its agents, as well as the West, are trying to deal the Sudanese government a blow because these youths came to power and they are clean Muslim youths. But their path is difficult, and they have to be patient and persevere. They have to confront the difficulties and problems. Islamic movements are present in all countries, but they are not prominent. The majority of the people support these Islamic movements, while the governments are against them. Governments, however, should not oppress the people. The belligerent want to crush the people with their oppression because the people are Muslim. Only a few years ago, the French were the absolute authority in Algeria. They used to chase the Muslims and Koran-readers in the cities and villages. But they could not crush the Muslim people; in fact, they contributed toward intensifying the state of Islam. They wanted to annihilate this state of Islam in Tunis and the rest of the African countries in general. All the governments and democracies joined forces to strike

Islam. We advise these rulers of the following: If they wish to stay in power, they ought to respond to the people, not oppress them.

[Sharri] Perhaps they have foreign guarantees, American ones, for example?

[Mohtashemi] Despite its prowess, the United States cannot subjugate a people if they decide to resist.

[Sharri] The Algerian Government has hinted that you played a role in instigating the recent incidents in Algeria. What do you say?

[Mohtashemi] This is a lie. The Algerian media know that when I was in Algiers, I was surrounded by security and intelligence officials. My movements and activities were under constant surveillance. I met with Algerian officials and with people known by the Algerian Government.

[Sharri] Unless you read to them the Koranic verse: "And we put a bar in front of them and a bar behind them, and further, we have covered them up; so that they cannot see."

In any case, what is the story of the heated debate that took place between you and one of the officials (whose name we do not want to mention) who accompanied you on your tour? This unnamed official criticized another Iranian official. It was incorrectly reported that you are at loggerheads with this unnamed official.

[Mohtashemi] We want to keep these matters secret and not release details, even though you heard about part of the story.

[Sharri] Some quarters in Lebanon and elsewhere believe that Islamic fundamentalism and Jewish fundamentalism are two sides of the same coin.

[Mohtashemi] A man sent his shoes to the cobbler for repair. The cobbler did not repair the shoes. When the man asked when the shoes would be ready, the cobbler answered: Tomorrow.

One day the man went to the shop and found the cobbler's assistant there. The man asked what happened to his shoes. The assistant said: When the piece of wood becomes green and grows into a tree, come and take your shoes.

The cobbler came to the shop and asked the assistant what he told the man. The assistant said: I told him when the piece of wood becomes a tree, he can come and take his shoes. The cobbler asked the assistant why he told him this. The assistant said: I wanted him to go and not come back. The cobbler asked: Are you not afraid that the piece of wood will become a tree?

It seems every question you ask is your last question. The questions will not end except when the piece of wood becomes a tree.

[Sharri] I did not say this is the last question, except this time!

[Mohtashemi] Naturally, regarding this tendentious talk by some people, I can say that this method is not new. All prophets and guardians, including Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, and all honest leaders in history were beset with these false accusations.

For example, before the victory of the revolution, they used to say that Imam Khomeyni received funds from the Soviet Union. I was in al-Najaf when Imam Khomeyni was giving lessons on Islamic jurisprudence and government. Yet, several agents in al-Najaf used to say that the Soviet ambassador came from Baghdad every night and gave Imam Khomeyni lesson plans so that he would teach them to his disciples.

Here is an another example. They used to say that Khomeyni received funds from the United States and Britain and other ridiculous things. Imam Khomeyni used to attack the Soviet Union when he was in al-Najaf. After the victory of the revolution, he said that the United States was worse than the Soviet Union and Britain was worse than the Soviet Union and the United States. Thirty years ago, Imam Khomeyni said that this wicked triangle—the shah, the United States, and Israel—was the cause of all the calamities that had befallen the Islamic nation. Imam Khomeyni called for fighting the United States and Israel. Such accusations were also made against Gandhi and other leaders.

[Sharri] They also said that Imam 'Ali was not praying, although he was the first Muslim and the one who never bowed before an idol.

[Mohtashemi] They also say he [not further identified] was drinking alcohol. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country in the world that is struggling against the United States and Israel openly and without maneuvers, and it considers this part of its doctrine and duty.

[Sharri] A final word: I personally have the courage to say that if there is something that I do not like in the Islamic Republic, I say so. The Islamic Republic must believe in freedom of discussion and must welcome those who oppose it. I believe that the Islamic Republic, particularly Imam Khomeyni, are far from leaving any loopholes in dealing with Zionism and Israel. We know that at a time when everyone went for negotiations, Iran was the only country that called for war against Israel. But I believe that at a certain time, particularly during the Iraq-Iran war, some black marketeers were selling some weapons to Iran without the latter knowing the origin of these weapons, which were made available in the black market by U.S. intelligence and the Mosad with a view to tarnishing the reputation of the Islamic republic later on. Perhaps some people bought these weapons with good intentions, because no one who has integrity, patriotism, and faith would buy weapons from Israel deliberately. Some people might have been tricked by Israel's agents into buying these weapons with the purpose of defaming them later on. I wrote more than

once that if there were someone in the United States, Israel, or others in Europe and the world who wanted to help Iran in its war with Iraq, the air force was the area in which Iran needed the most help, because it lacked air cover. So why did they prevent Iran from buying even a single aircraft while Iraq was importing aircraft from France, the Soviet Union, and other countries? Also, Iran owned stockpiles of weapons in the United States that were bought during the shah's reign, so why did the United States not release them and give them to the Iranian Government, even though they were prepaid? But this does not deny the possibility that some arms traders might have gotten involved in buying weapons originating from Israel, and these people should have been investigated and the maximum penalty should have been handed down against them, if they were Iranian.

[Mohtashemi] You mentioned important evidence. To this I add, and this is the first time these things have been made public, that under the shah, Iran had owned more than half of the shares in a huge oil refinery in South Africa. The revolution's government refused even to discuss the matter with South Africa and left the entire refinery to it so that it might not enter into a dialogue with it; first because it is racist, second because it deals with Israel. More than that, from the time of the shah, Israel has owed Iran approximately $500 million. We do not raise the issue of this debt, not even through the international courts, because this might be construed as engaging in a dialogue with Israel in one form or the other, although it is our right. If we file a lawsuit in this respect with the international courts, we will certainly win it.

[Sharri] Now the piece of wood will become a tree. No more questions.

[Mohtashemi] Before you conclude, I want to tell you that I like you because you have your own opinion, because you do not write or say anything that you are not convinced of, and also because you forgive us for saying what we believe in.

[Sharri] This is what made us contact you. Thank you for the compliment and for your frankness.

Hashemiyan Issues Statement on 'Conspiracy'

LD1911113891 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Hashemiyan who was summoned to the special clerical court last week, in a brief statement here Tuesday stressed that there is no discrepancy between the Islamic Republic authorities regarding the achievements of the Islamic revolution. The statement was read in today's open session of the Majles by deputy from Baft, Kerman Province, Yadollah Eslami.

Referring to the futile attempts of the Western mass media, the statement stressed "in safeguarding the achievements of the revolution there exists no dispute among the authorities." It also called on Majles deputies and other figures to end their debates in relation with his summoning to the court. The clerical court confirmed last week that Hashemiyan had been summoned "on charges of conspiracy against the late imam's decrees."

Servicemen Begin Military Maneuvers in South

LD1811120491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The Zohd-1 [Devotion-1] operational maneuver of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army began this morning in the southern region with the sacred slogan of God is great in the presence of a gathering of high-ranking military commanders and the representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

According to the Central News Unit, over 40,000 personnel of the three services of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces are taking part in the maneuver which is taking place in an area of 150 square kilometers. In the maneuver, in which live ammunition is being used, 200 armored vehicles, over 20 assault helicopters and a number of transport helicopters, 40 Air Force fighters, and engineering and chemical defense units are also taking part.

The maneuver will take place in several stages, the first stage of which took place before noon today.

Attendees Listed

LD1811120991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Central News Unit correspondent report from Khuzestan]

[Text] The great Zohd-1 maneuvers, with the participation of over 40,000 personnel of the three services of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army, began this morning with the sacred slogan of God is Great in an area of 150 square kilometers in the southern region. In the maneuver—in which units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's air, ground, and naval forces are taking part—first, naval marine units, joined by the personnel of a commando brigade, crossed the river using the element of surprise, and, by establishing a bridgehead in the hypothetical enemy's territory, they took up positions in the preplanned areas.

Also, with the advance of the combatants of Islam into the depths of the hypothetical enemy's territory, the Islamic Republic's Air Force deployed dozens of its fighters to begin missions to cut the hypothetical enemy's communication links.

Inspecting the maneuvers were Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Golpayegani, representative of the eminent leader; Dr. Firozabadi, head of the General

Command Headquarters [HQ]; Major General Shahbazi, head of the army joint command; commanders of the Islamic Republic's Ground and Air Forces; Major General Zahirnezhad, head of the advisory group of the General Command Headquarters; Brigadier General Rashid and Dr. Chamran, from the General Command Headquarters; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Jazayeri, representative of the supreme jurisconsult in Khuzestan Province and the governor-general of Khuzestan.

Exercises Simulate Chemical Attack

LD1811221291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The second phase of the Zohd-1 [Devotion-1] exercises has been successfully completed. During this phase of the exercises, Islamic Republic artillery, using 250 artillery pieces and self-propelled guns, fired on a notional enemy for 20 minutes, following which the enemy attempted to stage a chemical attack on the active forces.

According to this report, immediately following the enemy chemical attack, chemical defense units entered the theater on specially equipped vehicles to decontaminate the area. The infantry units, wearing masks, then proceeded with their advance.

According to this report, army aviation helicopters, in orderly combat formation, gave air support to the Islamic combatants, during which they fired guided missiles at the positions of the notional enemy for 15 minutes. The infantry and combat units then reached their assigned targets.

Yazdi Claims Anti-Revolution Trend Dying Out

LD1511091391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary, told a gathering today of the people of Qorveh in the city's Jam' mosque that the state is moving toward 100 percent Islamic sovereignty and that the enemy has lost hope and the antirevolution trend is breathing its last.

Referring to the many conspiracies of the enemies of Islam aimed at leading young people toward deviation, he said: Our beloved youth must be most vigilant because the enemy enters by influencing the young. The head of the judiciary described young people as the hope of the country, and addressing them he said: You must take up the specialist scientific and judicial positions of the state and from now you should safeguard your body and soul from deviation and corruption by identifying the conspiracies that have been hatched by the West for corrupting you.

Pilgrimage Affairs Moved to New Organization

LD0711175591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpts] According to a decision adopted by the Supreme Administrative Council, all affairs related to the pilgrimage, which had been entrusted to the Pilgrimage, Endowments, and Charitable Affairs Organization have now been transferred to the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization. According to the decision of the Supreme Administrative Council's meeting today, chaired by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization is an automonous organization under the supervision of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance. It will be run as a governmental institution whose president, holding the position of deputy minister, will be appointed by the minister in coordination with the representative of the jurisconsult on Hajj and Pilgrimage Affairs. Meanwhile, propaganda, cultural, and political affairs of the hajj and related subjects, such as the selection of clerics, training, and the like, will fall within the powers of the representative of the Jurisconsult. [passage omitted]

As of the date of the said decree, the title of the Pilgrimage, Endowments, and Charitable Affairs Organization will change to the Endowments and Charitable Affairs Organization. As of the date of this decree, all rules and regulations contradicting it will be null and void but other regulations will remain in force.

Pakistan

Any Attack on Nuclear Installations 'Act of War'

BK1911091091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The Senate was assured this morning that the country's nuclear program is entirely for peaceful purposes and these facilities would be defended against any attack from any quarter. This assurance was given by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, while speaking at an adjournment motion by Syed Istiaq Azhar. The minister reiterated that Pakistan would consider any attack on its nuclear installations as an act of war and would deal with it accordingly.

Earlier, during question hour, the house was informed that a number of measures have been taken to deal with the problem of substandard drugs.

Official Discusses National Foreign Policy Goals

BK1711094291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign affairs, has said that the present government is working to establish tension-free and good-neighborly relations with India. In a briefing to members of the Foreign Correspondents Association in Islamabad yesterday on the

objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy, he said the government has apprised India of the Pakistani leadership's desire to resolve all outstanding issues, the Kashmir issue in particular, with India so as to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity in South Asia.

On Afghanistan, the secretary general said that Pakistan expects that the issue will be resolved within two months after the progress in the recent talks between the Soviet authorities and the mojahedin. For its part, Pakistan has taken several steps for an immediate political settlement of this dispute. In this connection, he referred to Pakistan's support for the UN secretary general's five-point formula.

Akram Zaki said that the government has also made efforts to resume high-level talks on all aspects of bilateral issues with the United States to continue mutual cooperation and remove misunderstandings and differences on the nuclear issue. He reiterated that the present government will not accept any discriminatory restrictions on its nuclear program. He favored a solution to this issue by declaring South Asia, including India, a nuclear-free zone. Akram Zaki said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its friendship with the United States, as this is in the interest of the two countries.

He stated that relations with the PRC are also a matter of great importance to Pakistan as the PRC is a trustworthy friend of Pakistan.

He said the government is making special efforts to forge close and friendly ties and cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, and other Muslim nations.

Expects Afghan Accord in '2 Months'

BK1611163991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 16 (AFP)—Pakistan expects a settlement of the Afghan conflict in the next two months following progess in talks between Soviet officials and the mojahedin resistance, a top official said here Saturday.

Five days of talks in Moscow among mojahedin and senior Soviet and Russian officials saw definite progress, Foreign Office spokesman Akram Zaki said.

Arrangements for a transitional mechanism in Kabul were "sufficiently clarified," he added.

There are signs an agreement on a comprehensive settlement may be concluded around January 1, "which is becoming a benchmark, rather than a magic date," he said.

Moscow and Washington agreed in September to stop arms shipments to the warring sides by January 1, 1992.

In a joint declaration drafted in Moscow on Friday, the mojahedin agreed to release a first group of Soviet prisoners of war by the end of the year.

"We have reached now from a state of almost despondency to an atmosphere of hope," he said, adding that the next round of talks should resume before too long, most probably in Pakistan.

He said details were still awaited from Moscow but Islamabad believed they contained a reference to Soviet "condemnation" of the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan, a demand repeatedly made by mojahedin to admit guilt.

"This would mean they should withdraw the consequences of the intervention in Afghanistan" by removing the Kabul ruler Najibollah, Zaki said.

He was confident that an interim government, envisaged in the U.N. secretary general's May 21 blueprint, would be "without the present stalwarts" in Kabul.

Asked how the government would reconcile with hardline rebel leaders like Golboddin Hekmatyar, 'Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf and Yunes Khales who refused to join the parleys, he said those left behind would review the situation. "They might feel that they should not be isolated in the future," he said.

Zaki said Moscow's interference had still not ceased, but he hoped an agreement on restoring peace and ending the 13-year-old civil war in Afghanistan would be concluded by the arms cut-off date.

Rejects 'Discriminatory' Nuclear Curbs

BK1611162991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 16 (AFP)—Pakistan said Saturday it would not accept any discriminatory restrictions on its nuclear programme, hoping the U.S. would adopt a reasonable attitude at the bilateral talks here next week.

The country supports a solution to the issue through a regional nuclear weapon [word indistinct] arrangement in South Asia also including India.

"We are hoping that the United States will try to be less unreasonable" when the two countries hold discussions on bilateral relations, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Akram Zaki told reporters here.

Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. under secretary of state for international security, is to arrive here Monday with General Joseph P. Hoar, the commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command.

The visit will be the first by senior U.S. officials since Washington cut off its nearly 600 million dollar annual economic and military assistance in October 1990 over suspicions that Pakistan's nuclear programme was weapon-oriented.

During his three-day stay, Bartholomew will meet with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif besides holding formal talks with top Foreign Ministry officials.

The aid was frozen under the U.S. Pressler law which forbids assistance to countries possessing a nuclear device.

Pakistan, which insists its atomic programme is entirely peaceful, has refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) until its regional rival India also agrees to do so.

"Pressler is a discriminatory law, Pakistan will not accept it," Zaki said at a meeting with the Foreign Press Association here.

He emphasised that Washington should apply the same yardstick on the nuclear issue to both Pakistan and India, and that only then could Islamabad consider any proposals.

"Pakistan's position on the subject is very clear," Zaki said, adding that the country was aware of the limitations imposed by the Pressler law and that was why it was not raising the aid problem.

"If there are to be any adjustments, they have to be made by both sides," he said, referring to the standoff between the two traditional allies.

He denied Pakistan was under any pressure to sign the NPT in isolation from India, stressing that the country had received a positive response to its proposal for five-nation consultations involving the United States, the Soviet Union, China, India and Pakistan.

Zaki said there was some "re-thinking now in India," which initially rejected Nawaz Sharif's June 6 proposal for a nuclear-free South Asia and mutual disarmament of weapons of mass destruction as well as the conventional arms.

Commentary Welcomes USSR, UN Support for Plan

BK1511104891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] Pakistan's draft resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia has been adopted by an unprecedented overwhelming majority by the Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. The Pakistani resolution, which was cosponsored by another South Asian country, namely Bangladesh, received 104 votes in favor as against only three opposing it, and 25 abstentions. Of the three states opposing the proposal, India is one. The proposal on this subject was introduced by Pakistan for the first time in 1974—the year India exploded a nuclear device— and every year it has received a majority support in the UN General Assembly. But this year, the proposal has received the highest number of positive votes. More significantly, this time the Soviet Union, along with the Soviet republics of Ukraine and Belorussia, which are full-fledged members of the UN General Assembly, has for the first time switched its position from the easing of tension to outright support. The proposal, which will come up before the General Assembly next month, is likely to receive a heavy endorsement.

While three other nuclear-weapon powers—the United States, Great Britain, and China—had always favored the Pakistani proposal on a nonnuclear-weapon South Asia, the newly pledged Soviet backing for it is expected to have far-reaching implications. It would certainly provide a considerable boost to Pakistan prime minister's 6 June initiative which envisages a conference between the United States, the Soviet Union, China, India, and Pakistan to consider the establishment of a nonnuclear proliferation regime in South Asia. The change of Soviet position also constitutes a landmark in the postcold war era in which the nuclear-weapon powers are (?apparently) active and greatly concerned in addressing the question of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia.

The importance of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia cannot be overemphasized as it is a vital aspect of the global effort for disarmament. Pakistan vehemently supports it and it has, in fact, never had any intention of acquiring weapon-grade nuclear capability. Its modest nuclear program is directed toward development of energy for peaceful purposes. However, it has always pleaded for an evenhanded, balanced, and nondiscriminatory approach toward all the South Asian states. Pakistan correctly believes that placing regulatory obligations on some states through the exclusion of others is not only contrary to equity and fair play, it would also not serve the cause of nonproliferation in the region. Hopefully the UN secretary general would, in accordance with the draft resolution, succeed in promoting consultations among the states of the region and other concerned nations, such as the permanent members of the Security Council and the countries located in the vicinity of South Asian region, with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for establishing a nonnuclear-weapon zone in South Asia and persuade all the nuclear states to refrain from taking any action contrary to the content and spirit of the Pakistani-sponsored resolution.

While the concept of denuclearized areas is universally accepted and such zones have already been established in Latin America, the Antarctica, the outer space, and the seabed, and denuclearization of the Central Europe and the Balkans is under active consideration, the proposal for such a zone in South Asia has not made much practical headway despite the UN support for it during the last 17 years. This has happened mainly on account of the Indian intransigence and the Soviet ambivalence toward the issue. Now that there is full support from the Soviet Union for a denuclearized South Asia, it is to be hoped that the Indian opposition would also no longer endure.

Bhutto Says Nation Run by Intelligence Service

BK1611051991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0235 GMT 16 Nov 91

[By Yvan Chemla]

[Text] Karachi, Nov 16 (AFP)—The Pakistan Government is being run by the country's intelligence bureau, according to former premier Benazir Bhutto, who insisted in an interview with AFP that she and her children's lives are in danger.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif "does not have the ability to govern," the opposition leader charged. "He does not have any sustained interest span which is more than 10 to 15 minutes."

"I think Nawaz Sharif intends to run the government through the intelligence bureau, through their dirty tricks, smear campaigns and treason charges," Bhutto said.

On the prospects of her party's chances of returning to power, Bhutto, who appears to have lost none of her charisma or combativeness after being removed from power last year, was upbeat.

"I am convinced that the Pakistan People's Party will return sooner than later because it has the support of the people," she said.

Bhutto said she regretted the U.S. decision to suspend aid to Islamabad, due to Washington's suspicions that Pakistan's nuclear research was of a military nature.

Describing herself as a "non-proliferationist," Bhutto admitted that Pakistan had overstepped the mark acceptable to Western countries with its nuclear research.

"Pakistan should not have gone beyond the position of June 1989," she said.

"By proceeding further in 1990, we jeopardised our own national interests as the aid has been cut off and we have been internationally isolated."

The experience of the Soviet Union, she said, "has shown that nuclear arms or a nuclear deterrent alone is not sufficient criteria for the preservation of the territorial integrity of states.

"When there is economic collapse, the country collapses," Bhutto added.

Bhutto held the interview in her high-security Karachi residence, which in many ways seems more akin to a fortress.

"I have always felt threatened ever since I entered political life," she explained. "Before that, I felt threatened for my father."

Her father, former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was deposed in a military coup in July 1977, and was executed on April 4, 1979.

But a confident-looking Bhutto said: "Life is not to be feared, life for me is to be lived."

However, Bhutto added: "I do feel concerned about my children not having a normal life, because I can't send them to school and they cannot move freely."

She said there was even a plan to kill her husband, Asif Zardari, in prison for a year as the result of corruption charges.

"When I dislosed this to the press, the government, instead of denying the plot, charged that I was trying to do away with him (Zardari)," she said.

Referring to a recent sex scandal which resulted in the resignation from the ruling alliance of Sami-ul-Haq, a prominent fundamentalist leader, Bhutto alleged that Nawaz Sharif was using the intelligence service to strengthen his power base.

"Sex, drugs and arms, we have seen them all and the latest was (Sami-ul-Haq) being framed with trumped-up charges," Bhutto said.

Calling for the formation of an "interim government of national consensus" to pave the way for fresh elections, Bhutto repeated her allegations that last year's polls were rigged.

"The unfair election of 1990 has created the crisis of legitimacy which the Nawaz Sharif government has never overcome," she said.

Despite her calls for a government of national consensus, however, Bhutto ruled out any long-term alliance with Islamic fundamentalist forces.

"We have ideological differences with them and would not like to be held hostage to the forces of fundamentalism," she said.

Discusses Afghan War, Kashmir Issue

BK1611100691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Karachi, Nov 16 (AFP)—Rising Muslim separatism in Kashmir could lead India and Pakistan to fight a third war over the disputed territory, Pakistan opposition leader and former premier Benazir Bhutto said in an interview.

As a violent independence campaign gathers momentum in the southern two-thirds of Kashmir under Indian control, "there will be a danger of war between Pakistan and India," Bhutto told AFP.

"There will be more temptation for India in this period to divert attention from other issues," she said.

Asked whether she would support an independent Kashmir if she were returned to power, Bhutto, who was sacked as prime minister in August 1990, expressed "reservations" about changing the terms of the 1947 partition of Indian and Pakistan.

"I think the option is either to opt for India or Pakistan," she said, but added, "Kashmiris must decide what is best for them."

In neighbouring Afghanistan, she said, "it is essential to have a dialogue through the UN secretary general or his representative, especially when (Soviet-backed President Najibollah) is not stepping down."

"We cannot wait for him to go," she said, adding: "I prefer that Najib step down but paramount for me is a peace settlement."

Pakistan currently shelters the Afghan mojahedin resistance and some three million refugees from the 12-year-old Afghan civil war.

Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics could form the backbone of a new regional market but only following resolution of the conflict, she said.

Official Threatens Agency's Use Against PPP

BK1711004191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1756 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Karachi, Nov 16 (AFP) - The home affairs advisor to the chief minister of Pakistan's southern Sindh Province threatened here Saturday to use the intelligence agency against the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Irfanullah Marwat said the intelligence agency would be used against the party headed by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto if it continued with alleged terrorism.

"The PPP is suffering from the cancer of lies, terrorism and accusations, and the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) centre is the best place for their treatment,", Marwat said in a statement released by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP).

It was the first public statement on the use of the CIA to tame political opponents.

Bhutto told AFP in an interview published Saturday that the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was being run by the intelligence agency.

Religious Party Condemns U.S. Libyan 'Threats'

BK1811140691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 18 (AFP)—An influential religious party in Pakistan condemned Monday the U.S. reprisal threats to Libya as a move to strengthen Israel.

Shah Faridul Haq, acting chief of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP), said in a statement that threatened retaliation against Libya for its alleged involvement in the bombing of a U.S. jetliner was aimed at "vanquishing" any forces that oppose the U.S.-backed "new world order."

U.S. officials have recently blamed the explosion of a Pan Am jet over Scotland in December 1989, which killed 270 people, on Libyan agents.

The fundamentalist JUP, which supported Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and recruited thousands of volunteers to fight alongside his forces in the Gulf war, said the latest accusation of Tripoli's involvement in terrorism indicated that Libya would be the next U.S. target.

Claiming that the U.S. Government wanted to destroy Muslim strength everywhere, Haq said the threat to Libya was a "serious challenge" to the Islamic world.

Washington's basic objective, he said, appeared to be the destruction of Muslim unity in order to make Israel "stronger and undefeatable" in the Middle East.

He said that while trying to paralyse Iraq economically as well as militarily, the United States was not prepared to tolerate any other major power in the Muslim world.

Government Concerned by Indian Attack on Train

BK1811163691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its concern to India at two incidents of firing at Samjhota Express train [connecting India and Pakistan in the Punjab sector] in India last September. One Pakistani woman passenger was killed and 21 other Pakistanis were injured in the firing. This was stated by Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, while speaking on two identical adjournment motions in the Senate today which Tariq Chaudhry and Hafiz Hussain Ahmed wanted to move. The motions called for discussion on India's failure to protect Pakistani passengers in its territory.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said Pakistan is awaiting a report from India regarding the incidents which will be presented to the house after its receipt and an investigation. He added that the issue of compensation in this connection is still pending with India. He said India is responsible for the safety of Pakistani passengers traveling through its territory. The government had without any delay expressed its concern through the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad.

The movers did not press on their motions after the minister's statement.

Prime Minister Calls for Foreign Investment

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[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said his government is evolving a well-thought out medium-term strategy of industrialization and economic development befitting a sovereign, self-reliant Islamic nation. He was inaugurating a three-day investment promotion conference in Islamabad this morning. He said the strategy is presently in the process of formulation in the context of the eighth five-year plan to be launched from the first of July 1993.

The prime minister said the investment strategy envisaged by his government aims at building an industrial sector designed to compete at global level for market share. A congenial environment will be created for the purpose based on partnership between the public and private sectors. All public industries, which can be better managed in the private sector, will be privatized. During the transition, public enterprise reforms will ensure that they are run in public interest.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said we have provided in Pakistan the kind of environment with unprecedented opportunities for foreign investment. The foreign investor has been placed at par with the domestic investor and foreign investment has been completely deregulated.

Nearly 700 entrepreneurs, 400 of them from abroad, are attending the investment promotion conference.

Talking to newsmen after inaugurating the investment promotion conference, the prime minister said the government is determined to maintain political stability as it is vital for economic stability and progress of the country. He said the presence of such a large number of foreign and local investors at the conference testifies to the interest of the entrepreneurs to stimulate investment in the country.